

Rachel Miller
Crystal River High School, Citrus County
2025 Honorable Mention

Rachel teaches English at Crystal River High School in Citrus County.

She was chosen as a 2025 Honorable Mention for using the Tampa Bay Times to help her Freshmen Health Academy students stay informed through relevant health articles that spark meaningful discussion and inspire real-world action.

Rachel uses the Times to help students advance their skills in writing, reading, speaking, and listening while connecting their learning to real-world challenges relevant to their prospective careers in dental, nursing, biomedical, and EMT professions.

Rachel writes, “Newspaper stories helped students understand who stands behind statistical data, which made their learning experiences more valuable and their professional aspirations more intentional.

Students regularly discover new information and opportunities in the newspaper and are eager to share what they learn. What begins as a newspaper assignment often transforms into a passion for service, leadership, and lasting change. Our students are not only gaining knowledge – they're developing into compassionate, active citizens.”

This year, Rachel’s students founded Students and Teachers Against Cancer, or STAC, a club focused on volunteerism, advocacy, and community health awareness.

Rachel was also chosen as a Runner-Up in 2023 and 2024.