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## Good deeds recognized at Partners for Excellence Kickoff

Leon County Schools celebrates its community partners

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Pineview Elementary Assistant Principal Lanell McCaskill waved her pom-pom high when Betty Roberts accepted her award at the Leon County Schools Partners for Excellence kickoff and recognition ceremony on Thursday.

Roberts, representing the Callen Neighborhood Association, received an award for top organization/agency at the ceremony for their partnership with Pineview and the endless deeds they have done for the school over the past 30 years.

"The school is a very important part of our neighborhood and we want to make it a success," Roberts said about the Callen neighborhood that is located right next to Pineview.

"If there's anything we need, they have always found a way to provide it," Pineview partner coordinator Kevin Johnson said.

There are more than 850 partnerships like this one between the community and schools in Leon County.

"What sets us apart from other districts is the community support," Superintendent Jackie Pons said. Awards were given to individual school nominees at the Civic Center, and to the top large business, Childers Construction Company, for its work with Kate Sullivan Elementary and the top small business, Baycrest Corporation, for its work with Conley Elementary and Lincoln High.

Jeff Hanson, Kerry Forest Parkway Red Elephant Pizza & Grill general manager, said that gift certificates, food or water the restaurant occasionally gives to Chiles High and DeSoto Trail Elementary is the least they can do for their hard work.

"These are the people that we see in our restaurant every day. We just want to give back to them," Hanson said.

Betsy McCauley, district volunteer specialist, was grateful to partners and for anything they can give to the schools.

"The district allocates dollars for the essential needs of the school; we need the extras to come from the community," she said.

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