April Griffin, Hillsborough County School Board Chair, was the guest speaker for the event.

Andrew Breidenbaugh, Director of Library Services, discussed supporting the residents of Hillsborough County.

Linda Gillon, Manager of Library Development, spoke about the importance of literacy.

Paul Suppicich, HLC President, welcomed everyone to the Annual Tutor Student Appreciation.

April Griffin, Hillsborough County School Board Chair, was the guest speaker for the event.

Linda Gillon, Manager of Library Development, spoke about the importance of literacy.
Mark Spyke was the winner the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Student of the Year Award. The award was presented by Board Member Robert Paulich.

The ESOL Tutor of the Year Award went to Catherine Achat. The award was presented by Board Member Aldina Dzebo.

The ABE Tutor of the Year Award went to Linda Helman. The award was presented by HLC Board Secretary Bill Hunter.
Basic literacy graduate, Theresa Bellamy, thanked her tutor for helping her learn how to read.

Tutor trainer and mentor, Lark Underwood, encouraged everyone to ask their friends and family to sign up for tutor training and make a difference in someone’s life.

HLC student, Marta Morales, read her story “Anniversary” about the year with her tutor Linda Helman.

HLC student, Maria Danny Perez, read her story “The Most Fun Thing I Did As a Child.”
HLC Board Vice President, Frank Shideler, spoke on behalf of Sylvia Miller Award Recipient and former board member, William Hill.

HLC tutor, Lark Underwood, with her students Abraham Mendoza, Maria Danny Perez, Melba Oquendo, and Silvia Perales.

Board Members Aldina Dzebo, Kyle Simon, Janet Daggs, Bill Hunter, Phyllis Weston, and Paul Suppicich.

Adult Literacy Liaison, Lucie Chaumont and Library Assistant, Alexandra Greacen, were thanked by Board Members Phyllis Weston and Janet Daggs.
Bill Hunter is a true Florida Native. He was born in Gainesville and spent all his adult life in the Tampa area. He graduated from USF with an English major and like many young men of that time, he was drafted into the Army. He worked as a radio operator for the Command Center in Korea just north of the DMZ. When he was released from duty he returned to Tampa and settled in Seminole Heights where he remains today.

In keeping with his military ties, he took a job after service with the civil service and became benefits advisor at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. He assisted injured soldiers returning from combat who were transitioning back to civilian life. He enjoyed this job for many years using his compassion and communication skills to help wounded men and women navigate the very complicated VA system.

Bill also wanted to help his community. He realized there were many adults who did not learn to read and were struggling. As a lifelong reader and one who appreciated the written word, Bill was a natural fit with the mission of the Hillsborough Literacy Council. He began by tutoring basic English and soon became the tutor coordinator for his community. For over 30 years, Bill has faithfully volunteered his time for HLC and also has served as HCL Board Secretary for many of those years.

Having lived in Seminole Heights for many years he witnessed many changes over the years. He decided to get involved in his community’s restoration and development by serving on local boards. Bill retired a couple years ago and he continues his work with HLC. He now spends more time restoring his historic 1920 Japanese style bungalow home that he shares with his husband, Terry.

It’s people like Bill who share their time and talent to help make HLC such a valued organization.

By Phyllis Weston, HLC Board Member
Tutor Workshop

Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

John F. Germany Public Library
900 N. Ashley Dr.

Special Guest:
Eric Hughes, Professor at INTO USF

Please RSVP:
adultliteracy@hillsboroughcounty.org or (813) 273-3650