

New College of Florida Conferred Honorary Master's Degree to Kay Daniels at August 13 Board of Trustees Meeting

SARASOTA, FL, UNITED STATES, September 10, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As the nation solemnly approaches the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, New College of Florida conferred Honorary Master of Education in Educational Leadership on Kay Daniels. The degree was officially presented during the College's Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2026.

A dedicated Sarasota educator, Daniels' classroom became the center of a profound historic moment on Sept. 11, 2001.

On that fateful day, Daniels was serving as a host teacher to President George W. Bush at Emma E. Booker Elementary School in Sarasota. It was inside her second-grade classroom that White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card whispered the tragic news to the President. Throughout an unprecedented moment of national shock, Daniels maintained her composure, embodying the quiet strength, resilience, and professionalism of America's educators.

While history remembers her for her presence on 9/11, New College of Florida is recognizing Daniels for her remarkable, lifelong devotion to the academic and social success of Florida's students.

"Kay Daniels represents the very best of the teaching profession—steady leadership, profound courage, and a deep, enduring belief in the transformative power of education," said New College President Richard Corcoran. "We honor her today not just as a witness to history, but as a lifelong advocate for children whose daily, dedicated work in the classroom has impacted generations of Sarasota students."

"I am deeply humbled to receive this honorary degree from New College of Florida," said Kay Daniels. "When I look back on my career, my greatest success isn't defined by a single historic day, but by the thousands of ordinary days spent watching my students learn to read, gain confidence, and grow. Whether in the classroom or through our summer enrichment and after-school programs, my life's work has always been about creating a safe, supportive space where every child has the tools to succeed "

A Legacy of Transformative Teaching and Student Advocacy

Daniels' career spans decades of dedicated service across multiple grade levels and school communities, reflecting a student-centered approach to instruction. Her advanced training and professional credentials demonstrate a sustained commitment to supporting diverse learners:

- Literacy and Language Advocacy: Holding K-12 Reading and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) endorsements, Daniels has provided vital support to students requiring targeted literacy and language services.
- Leadership Beyond the Classroom: Transitioning to Booker Middle School, Daniels designed and directed the school's Summer Transition Program (later renamed the Summer Enrichment Program) to strengthen continuity in students' learning.
- Expanding Access to Education: She served as the Coordinator for the After School Program, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club, expanding safe, educational opportunities for youth beyond the standard school day.

By conferring this Honorary Master of Education in Educational Leadership, New College of Florida celebrates Kay Daniels' steady leadership, her lifelong stewardship of student success, and her dignified service during one of the most consequential days in modern American history.

About New College of Florida

Founded in 1960, New College of Florida is the state's designated public honors college. Recognized nationally for its academic excellence, rigorous inquiry, and commitment to free expression, New College offers more than 50 undergraduate majors, graduate programs in Applied Data Science, Marine Mammal Science, and a new Master's program in Educational Leadership, and a growing NAIA athletics program.

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