

Havana police officer enters national hall of fame

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Havana's Sergeant Brenda Bowman-Sizemore being inducted into the CCA Hall of Fame. Submitted photo

At the recent Career College Association's (CCA) National Awards Ceremony in Orlando, Havana police sergeant Brenda Bowman-Sizemore was honored for her induction as a member of the association's National Hall of Fame.

"I was stunned," said Bowman-Sizemore about her recognition. The CCA Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding career college graduates who have achieved noteworthy success in their career fields, according to CCA Hall of Fame Award comments. Keiser University Vice Chancellor Belinda Keiser said of CCA's newest member of their Hall of Fame: "I'm very proud of Sergeant Brenda Bowman-Sizemore. The recognition is for outstanding career college graduates who are leaders in their communities. There are one million graduates each year, and some 1,300 CCA members, so this is the Olympics of Career College graduates on a national level." Brenda's husband, James, and two of her daughters, Hope and Heaven accompanied her to Orlando for the ceremony.

"She's incredible, an inspiration to others. She has a dream, and wanted to be educated. She has the drive, commitment, and faith in herself, and she overcame incredible odds," said Keiser. Keiser College nominated Sgt. Bowman-Sizemore for the award. "She has the desire to give back to her community, and she reaches out to young people. She's a great role model," said Keiser. About 2,000 people attended the awards ceremony. Among the programs Brenda has coordinated to help area teenagers was Gadsden's first Ghost Out, a drug and alcohol awareness program targeting teenagers because traffic crashes are the number one killer of teens. Over one-third of teen traffic deaths are drug- or alcohol-related, says the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Sergeant Brenda Bowman-Sizemore said she had many people to thank for the honor. "I want to say thank you to Keiser and CCA for this recognition, and thanks go to my family, and my police family, too. Thanks also go to my mentor, (Greensboro, FL police chief) Marianne Scholer. I know getting an education is its own reward, but I didn't know it meant getting an award like this, too. I was just stunned," said Sergeant Bowman-Sizemore.

CCA Membership Manager Reginald Beckham, Jr. called Bowman-Sizemore an 'outstanding graduate.' "The CCA Hall of Fame recognizes (those) who have achieved noteworthy success in their career fields, thanks to the education they received at a ...career college or institute. CCA Hall of Fame alumni include elected officials, television and film personalities, Pulitzer Prize winners, photojournalists, and everyday people who make extraordinary contributions to everyday life," said Beckham. Sgt. Bowman-Sizemore was selected from seven considered for the award after all national nominations were in, he said.

Havana police chief Glynn Beach called Bowman-Sizemore a top performer. "The Career College Association Hall of Fame Award bestowed on Sgt. Bowman-Sizemore is a tremendous honor. She is completely self-reliant; she strives for perfection and sees all projects through to their successful conclusion. She is a dedicated professional who thrives on new challenges, and I congratulate her on this auspicious occasion," said Chief Beach.