

# 2019 Nominee

## She Knows Where She's Going



Jeanette Albino, Property Manager, Lakeland Housing Authority

At age 25, Ms. Albino relocated to Florida from Puerto Rico and was homeless, unemployed, a single mother of two children and, even more challenging, did not speak English. Thankfully, her parents moved to Florida to assist her, and her neighbors began teaching her English. In time, she obtained affordable housing through the Winer Haven Housing Authority and a position in housekeeping at Walt Disney World. Despite experiencing another setback through divorce, Ms. Albino continued to pursue her dreams. In 2010, Ms. Albino received her Property & Casualty Insurance license and obtained work through a temp agency via a job training program offered by the Lakeland Housing Authority. She later became a permanent employee and was promoted to a Leasing Agent, then Assistant Manager, and more recently, a Property Manager. In 2018, Ms. Albino studied and passed the Housing Tax Credit Certified Professional exam. She is now managing the housing authority's newest tax credit property, Twin Lakes Estates I. Ms. Albino is committed to connecting residents of the Lakeland Housing Authority to the resources they need to be successful – mentoring and tutoring – and facilitating activities that support strong family dynamics and community. She also has a part-time catering business that specializes in cakes and other desserts. Ms. Albino knows where she is going and is dedicated to helping others along the way.

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Vanessa C. Johnson, Property Manager, Lakeland Housing Authority

Although financial pressures prevented Ms. Johnson from completing her degree at Polk State College, they did not stand in the way of her creating a better life for her children. While a single mother, Ms. Johnson was referred to the Lakeland Housing Authority Resident Manager Training Program. After completing the program, she continued employment at the Lakeland Housing Authority in the Resident Services Program. She continued to excel at her job and in 2011, she was promoted to the position of Public Housing Property Manager. Ms. Johnson has remained employed at Lakeland Housing Authority for 18 successfully years and manages all of the housing authority's public housing properties. During her tenure at LHA, Ms. Johnson has facilitated financial literacy, leadership, and other educational programs for the residents. She has also served a mentor and is passionate about advancing the lives of the residents and their families. Ms. Johnson know where she is going and wants to help others find their pathway to success.



Nominees Vanessa Johnson and Jeanette Albino



Lakeland Housing Authority staff showed up to support Jeanette Albino and Vanessa Johnson at the 2019 She Knows Award Luncheon.