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STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Stetson University VITA Program Celebrates \$2 Million in Local Tax Refunds

With 2,000 tax returns filed over past 9 years

DELAND, Fla., April 26, 2019 – Stetson University School of Business Administration hosted a celebratory event recently to commemorate the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program securing \$2 million in tax refunds for local families over the past nine years. Co-sponsored by the United Way of Volusia-Flagler counties, Stetson's M.E. Rinker, Sr. Institute of Tax and Accountancy and Stetson's Center for Community Engagement, the VITA program's volunteers helped file more than 2,000 tax returns, at no charge, for low-income families in the community.

Bonnie Holloway, a visiting lecturer in accounting, served as site coordinator for Stetson's VITA program. This year alone she trained 50 student-volunteers and was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the site.

"I'm so proud of our volunteers," said Holloway. "Not only do they provide quality tax-preparation services to the community but they also interact respectfully with the clients as they learn valuable real-world skills."

Each tax return was reviewed for quality control by the VITA site coordinator, a student assistant site coordinator, or a member of Stetson's Accounting Advisory Board. Board members donated their time and expertise to serve as mentors to the student tax preparers.

"One of our reviewers, Geoff Gose, is a former Stetson student who now works in the corporate tax department at Disney and he volunteers his time to this program and to our community," Holloway said.

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, Stetson University is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South) and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 384 Best Colleges, 2019 edition. Stay connected with Stetson on social media.
