

September 2009 Valor Award

Brent Anderson, Environmental Scientist 2-Kissimmee Division
Honorable Mention-Amber Graham, Florida Atlantic University Scientific
Technician

Brent Anderson and Amber Graham are being recognized for their decisive actions which may have saved the life of FAU Scientific Technician Jessica Wilson. After a long day of field work on the Kissimmee River, Jennifer was stung by a wasp at the District's Riverwoods Field Lab near Lorida at 6:30 PM August 6, 2009. Within minutes this apparently minor incident became a life-threatening emergency and Jessica experienced a severe allergic reaction with hives and difficulty breathing.

Because of Riverwood's remote location and the rapidly increasing severity of Jessica's condition, Brent and Amber called 911 and arranged for an ambulance to intercept their District vehicle en route to the nearest emergency room in Sebring (30 miles) away. Amber drove while Brent struggled to keep Jessica conscious and her airway open.

On the way, Jessica's condition worsened, with her breathing becoming more difficult as her face swelled; she was intermittently unconscious and went into shock before they arrived at the hospital. They never saw an ambulance on their way to the hospital. Emergency room staff stabilized Jessica's condition only after repeated requests from Brent and Amber. Brent and Amber are commended for their quick thinking, realistic assessment of a potentially life-threatening situation, and their late-night dedication to a co-worker's well being.