



# PCWH Report

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## Project Partner Receives Award

The Partnership for Citrus Worker Health Project (PCWH) has had a fruitful collaboration with U.S. Sugar/Southern Gardens Citrus, one of the premier agribusiness companies in the country. This relationship has been facilitated by Andy Esposito, Labor and Environmental Audit Specialist of U.S. Sugar, who has been instrumental in the company's implementation of the PCWH eye safety project with citrus workers.

This March, Esposito was honored by U.S. Sugar for his outstanding leadership and accomplishments. Esposito received the President's Award, the top award for the company, which recognizes an employee who has demonstrated company values and a professional approach to performance excellence. Esposito's work with the PCWH was recognized as one of his chief accomplishments. Esposito co-authored and presented a paper with PCWH staff at the National Registry of Environmental Professionals Annual Technical Conference in San Antonio, Texas in 2004.

Esposito became involved with the PCWH in 2001 because he saw that "there were a lot of things that could be done about farmworker safety and



*Andy Esposito (left) receiving his President's Award from Robert H. Baker, Jr. (right), President and CEO of the U.S. Sugar Corporation.*

health." According to Esposito, "when it comes to migrant farmworkers, too often we are responding to something negative that happens, but with the Partnership we could be proactive on safety issues." Esposito feels that the PCWH has provided him with improved skills and knowledge about health problems of the agricultural worker population that he has been able to integrate into his work with U.S. Sugar. Some key issues that Esposito considers important are personal protective equipment (PPE), such as safety glasses and gloves, the use of ladders, and basic first aid. He thinks the eye safety promoters of the PCWH have helped citrus workers by teaching about basic first aid and eye health.



One of the goals of the PCWH is to build collaboration in the community around local health issues. This issue of the *PCWH Report* highlights the accomplishments of the project's partners.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a presentation of the Partnership for Citrus Worker Health on **Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>** from 12 to 1 pm at the Immokalee Inter-Agency Council (IIAC) Meeting. For more information, contact Diane Christianson at (239)377-9906 or [christdi@collier.k12.fl.us](mailto:christdi@collier.k12.fl.us)  
*Location:* Immokalee One Stop Shop/Career and Services Building, 720 South Fifth Street, next to the Bethune Education Center, Immokalee, Florida.