

# Edison celebrates Great American Smokeout

By *ERIC MCKINNEY* EDISON STATE COLLEGE

PUNTA GORDA — The American Cancer Society's 34th annual Great American Smokeout was a tremendous success locally thanks in large part to Murdock Family Medicine and the Charlotte campus of Edison State College.

Thursday morning's activities hosted by Edison State College ranged from free blood pressure tests to yoga demonstrations to a Stop Smoking Seminar presented by Dr. Don Kennedy.

The American Cancer Society also took the occasion to present a plaque in recognition of Edison State College Charlotte Campus becoming the first public college or university in Florida to go 100 percent tobacco free.

"It's a tremendous honor to be recognized by an organization as respected as the American Cancer Society," said Christy Gilfert, Charlotte campus director of student services, who accepted the plaque on behalf of Edison State College.

"I think the real recognition belongs to the Edison students," Gilfert added. "Many of our students were heavily involved with the tobacco-free initiative and their passion is what made it possible and continues to make it work."

Thursday's events also included free blood pressure screenings from Murdock Family Medicine and Fawcett Memorial Hospital. The Charlotte County Health Department and Drug Free Charlotte County were also on hand to provide cessation materials and support to anyone interested. And the Punta Gorda Tennis & Fitness Club offered free yoga demonstrations.

Murdock Family Medicine's Dr. Don Kennedy was the keynote speaker with his Stop Smoking Seminar. The presentation included guest speaker and lung cancer survivor Tom Cappeillo.

The Smokeout festivities concluded with a cold turkey sandwich giveaway sponsored by the Nursing Department of Edison State College.

For more information about Edison State College Charlotte Campus please visit [www.edison.edu/charlotte](http://www.edison.edu/charlotte) or contact public information specialist Eric McKinney at 941-637-5628.