



Eckerd College's Taryn Fielder is honored as the 1999 Florida College Student of the Year by (from left) Florida Leader's Butch Oxendine, Commissioner of Education Tom Gallagher, and Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan.



♦ Eckerd's Taryn Fielder ♦

■ What's the most important lesson you've learned as a leader?

"Leaders are neither born nor made—they're constantly becoming. Everyone has the potential to develop leadership and even leaders are constantly learning how to improve."

—Taryn Fielder, 1998-99 resident advisor
Eckerd College

"I've learned important interpersonal skills. Taking a sincere interest in others and making them comfortable is important in forming a solid organization."

—Melissa Llera, 1998-99 ambassador
Barry University

"Lead by example. People will not commit to a hypocritical leader's goals."

—Jennifer Salinas, 1998-99 president
Student Activity Board
Central Florida Community College

"That within every person there is a leader waiting to be motivated, coaxed forward, and empowered to participate and contribute his or her own unique ideas."

—Beverly Mas, 1998-99 ambassador
Palm Beach Community College

"I've learned that you are always a leader, even on your 'off time.' People will look to you for advice or just how to handle a particular situation. I must always be aware of my surroundings."

—Jennifer Gurchak
1998-99 president
Phi Theta Kappa
Valencia Community College



RAY CARSON
♦ CFCC's Jennifer Salinas ♦

■ How do you motivate and encourage others to get involved?

"I encourage and motivate others to get involved by expressing my own motivation for extracurricular activities and community service. Excitement is contagious. If they see how beneficial the cause is and how much fun you're having, they usually catch the spirit."

—Anna Berger, 1999 conference director
Leaders Involved For
Tomorrow
University of Central Florida

"Probably one of the hardest aspects of being a leader is convincing others that their participation is crucial to campus success. I've always gone with the one-on-one approach. If we have 25 members of an organization and each member approaches three students a week,



♦ UF's Ian Lane ♦

RAY CARSON

Words of Wisdom

Advice from Florida's top college students

By Jami Soforenko and Melissa Park

Wondering if other campus leaders are dealing with the same issues as you? A closer look at the winners of the 1999 Florida College Student of the Year Award reveals advice that can help your organization reach its full potential.

■ What has been your number-one accomplishment as a leader?



♦ UCF's Melissa Zelniker ♦

JACQUE BRUND

"Raising enrollment and spirit for the university."
—Richard Viens
1998-99 ambassador
Florida Atlantic University

"While working with Spouse Abuse, we saw many sad days, but knowing that I helped one person who was being abused find shelter, start a better way of life, or help build their self-esteem made my job that much better. You can never put a price tag on saving someone's life."

—Melissa Zelniker
1998-99 director, Volunteer UCF
University of Central Florida

"Making a difference on my campus by pushing for scholarships for nontraditional students. Our college now has \$10,000 a year for returning students because of our Students Offering Support."

—Joseph Papa
co-founder, Students Offering Support
Pasco-Hernando Community College

"Remaining true to myself through my whole involvement in leadership roles. Too many 'leaders' quickly forget who they are, and in doing so, they lose touch with the people they supposedly serve. They forget what it means to be a true leader."

—Gary Slossberg
1998-99 president
Inter-Residence Hall
Association
University of Florida

"I took the initiative to reinstitute a supportive organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals on campus."

—Sara Cotner
1998-99 managing editor
The Stetson Reporter
Stetson University

Check out the SOTY website at www.floridaleader.com/soty

think about how many students we are reaching in a month.”

—Jenee Fernandes-Jones
1998-99 executive director
Student Government
Miami-Dade Community College, North
Campus

“Continuous conversation. Everywhere I go, I try to inform students about the various opportunities my campus offers. The more you put in, the more you get out. That holds true, and people recognize that.”

—Megan Miller
1998-99 student representative
University Religious
Affairs Committee
Florida State University

“Make things fun. Make people almost envy the excitement and energy you create...they'll beg to join in.”

—Daniel McCabe
1998-99 Alternative Break Corps site leader
Florida State University

“I speak enthusiastically about my experiences and plan fun events to get people motivated.”

—Debbie Goss
1998-99 president, Student Government
Florida Institute of Technology

■ What is the biggest problem on your campus, and what are you doing to solve it?

“We have a hate crime problem right now, and we're writing editorials and using the newspaper as an open forum.”

—Natalie Smith
1998-99 editor in chief, The Pulse
Lynn University

“Excitement is contagious. If they see how beneficial the cause is and how much fun you're having, they usually catch the spirit.”

— Anna Berger, 1999 conference director Leaders Involved For Tomorrow University of Central Florida

“I'm an enthusiastic advocate for campus involvement. There are so many students who miss out on the great experiences and wonderful friendships they could be gaining through being involved on campus. I try to get as many people as possible involved.”

—Dana Hill, 1998-99 director
Dance Marathon
Florida State University

“Equal representation of all students and concerns. I'm leading by example and hoping others will follow.”

—Ian Lane
1998-99 treasurer
Student Government
University of Florida



“Student apathy is one of our largest problems. I try to keep the campus informed

about events, activities, and occurrences through extensive use of the university's media resources.”

—Alyson Dion
1998-99 Campus Life editor
The Knight
Nova Southeastern University

“The biggest problem on our campus is taking control of our own destinies. This starts by defining your role and how you fit into the big picture. As a solution, I act on my conscience, always making an effort to do the right thing.”

—Kristin Tucker, 1998-99 president
Student Government Association
Florida A&M University