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Eckerd College Student Named Finalist for the 2003 Florida College Student of the Year Award

Gainesville, Fla (4/03)—Amanda Howey, a senior in psychology with a 3.75 GPA at Eckerd College, is among seven finalists statewide vying for the title of 2003 Florida College Student of the Year.

Howey and 19 other students from colleges and universities across Florida will share \$65,000 in scholarships and prizes. They will be honored Friday, April 11 at an awards ceremony and press conference held at the Capitol Building in Tallahassee.

Howey was selected from 156 applicants in the annual scholarship program sponsored by *Florida Leader* magazine, SunTrust Education Loans, and Office Depot. The Florida College Student of the Year Award celebrates 16 years of recognizing outstanding Florida college students for their campus leadership, academic excellence, and financial self-reliance. Howey's attitude of servant leadership and commitment to seeing things happen qualify her for this prestigious award.

Howey is currently serving as the Director of Faculty and Student Relations, a position that she rejuvenated and took on with great commitment. Howey wanted to see the faculty and students relate outside the classroom so she resurrected an old Eckerd tradition, Pitchers with Professors. This monthly event allows students and teachers to socialize over a pitcher of brew. According to Dr. Jessica Korn, Director of Institutional Research, this is the first year that she's ever seen faculty/student events really work. "[Pitchers with Professors]

is hugely popular, and especially on a Friday afternoon to have professors still there engaging the students is phenomenal.”

In addition to her work with Student Government, Howey co-created the Pinellas County Leadership Conference. The conference gathered students from across Pinellas County onto the Eckerd campus to participate in 20 workshops covering everything from campus and community involvement to leadership skills. Because of Howey’s hard work, Eckerd is planning on making this an annual event. “I can’t tell you what motivated her to take on such a big project,” Korn says. “When she thinks something is important, she doesn’t look at the size of it; she just goes for it, and she makes it a success.”

During her sophomore year, Howey founded EC Outreach, a community service organization aimed at getting college students out in the community. Within the last two years, EC Outreach has completed 20 successful events, including the now-annual Kimberly Home Christmas drive.

Among her other activities, Howey serves as president of Phi Chi, the psychology honor society, coordinator of Student Ministry, treasurer of the Psychology Club, an Eckerd Student Ambassador, and the Eckerd representative for the BACCHUS and GAMMA peer education network, through which she has organized campaigns educating students about sexual assault and the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Through this all, Howey has remained a humble leader. “We have to think of our leadership roles as helping others first,” she says. “I just see it as helping others and doing what I like to do, not as something worth getting an award for.”

After college, Howey plans to work at Eckerd for a year before she begins graduate work in Psychology.

The complete Florida College Student of the Year awards ceremony will air on Sunshine Network on May 21 at 5 p.m. and on May 27 at 10:30 a.m. It also will air throughout the month of June.

Students at 86 colleges and nearly 550 high schools throughout Florida read *Florida Leader*, founding sponsor of the Florida College Student of the Year Award. Now in its 20th year, Oxendine Publishing also produces the national leadership magazine *Student Leader*. See www.floridaleader.com/soty for more details on the annual scholarship program and the other finalists.