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## **Florida Community College at Jacksonville Student Named Finalist for the 2003 Florida College Student of the Year Award**

Gainesville, Fla (4/03)—Brittany Jowers, a sophomore in pre-pharmacy with a 3.94 GPA at Florida Community College at Jacksonville, is among seven finalists statewide vying for the title of 2003 Florida College Student of the Year.

Jowers 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.

Jowers 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. Jowers' selfless attitude and dedication to her campus qualify her for this prestigious award.

Jowers is president of the Student Government Association. Prior to her term, the SGA had a horrible reputation on campus and was seen as an elitist group. Jowers restored the SGA's reputation with her commitment to involve everyone and motivate them to serve. "She's by far the best SGA president that I've had

since I've been here, nine years now," says SGA Advisor Kelly Warren. "Last year, we had a really, really bad year. When she came into the presidency, she took the last four members and really turned the group around. She completely gained back the respect of the administrators—our campus president brags about her all the time."

Through SGA, Jowers established a healthy relationship with a childcare center on campus. Each month, SGA members go and read to the children. They also sponsored a Halloween trick-or-treat for the kids, where campus administrators, faculty, and staff dressed up and gave out candy to the kids.

In addition to working hard for her local SGA, Jowers also is the FJCCSGA's District IV coordinator. This responsibility is not one that Jowers had planned for. "I originally ran for the district executive board," she says. "When the district coordinator had to step down, I was bumped up."

Besides all her SGA work, Jowers is an active volunteer at the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, an organization that provides emergency financial assistance to families of military men and women. "Brittany is the first 'of-the-street' student to volunteer here in my 10 years," says director Capt. Dave Faraldo. "She relates extremely well with the elderly and kids."

This summer, Jowers plans on transferring to the University of Florida School of Pharmacy. She also hopes to earn a master's degree in business.

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 20<sup>th</sup> year, Oxendine Publishing also produces the national leadership magazine *Student Leader*. See [www.floridaleader.com/soty](http://www.floridaleader.com/soty) for more details on the annual scholarship program and the other finalists.