



CONTACT:

Stephanie Reck or Butch Oxendine
(352) 373-6907
info@studentleader.com
www.floridaleader.com/soty

Chipola Junior College Student Wins 2003 Florida College Student of the Year Award

Gainesville, Fla (04-03) – Christiana “Chrissie” Prichard, a sophomore in civil engineering with a 4.0 GPA at Chipola Junior College, is winner of the 2003 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

Prichard and 19 other students from colleges and universities across Florida shared \$65,000 in scholarships and prizes at the Friday, April 11 award ceremony and press conference held in the Capitol Building in Tallahassee. She appears on the cover of *Florida Leader* magazine and is profiled at www.floridaleader.com/soty.

Prichard was selected from 156 applicants in the annual scholarship program sponsored by *Florida Leader*, 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, financial self-reliance, and campus and community service, something Prichard has done throughout her stay at CJC.

Prichard is currently serving as the Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Officer. Through this organization, she created the “Leadership Promise Conference,” which gave area high school sophomores and juniors a chance to identify leadership qualities through activities facilitated by PTK members. The students learned ways to become servant leaders and empower others.

Her work on this project was a big success and showed her commitment to learning. “That was my baby, my project, and I know it made a difference,” she says. “We challenged them to create service-learning projects.

That makes me feel really good that these projects have been developed there. These high school students are becoming leaders, learning that they can make a difference.”

In addition to the conference, Prichard has had her hand in dozens of other PTK service events. She’s participated in promoting breast and children’s cancer awareness, organized a voter registration drive, and even assembled ‘quit kits’ to encourage student smokers to quit. According to PTK Advisor Jody Spooner, Prichard is one of the hardest working, most dedicated individuals on campus. “She’s brilliant, but you wouldn’t know it to meet her. You wouldn’t immediately see the academic prowess she possesses. She’s our only 4.0 student on campus in a very difficult discipline. She’s the kind of person who blends in anywhere, adapts so instantly. She’s a leader, a pure leader.”

Prichard has been an active force not only in PTK but also has represented her school as a member of the award-winning cheerleading squad, serving as co-captain. Prichard uses her leadership abilities to help young cheerleaders in the community enhance their skills, tutor team members to enhance their academic performance, and even helps choreograph dances for town events.

In addition to cheerleading, Prichard can be seen on campus as a student ambassador, helping high school seniors on their visits to CJC and going to local high schools to promote her college.

Prichard also was named a first-team All-USA Team member by *USA Today* and took home the New Century Scholar award as the top student in the state from the community college system’s All Academic Team nominees. Despite winning these awards, Prichard remains humble. “I know that I’ve worked hard these past years, and I’ve done some things that are worthwhile,” she says. “But I know that so many more do so much more than I do. It’s pretty amazing. The stuff that the others do is so outstanding. I feel pretty average next to them.”

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.

About Oxendine Publishing, Inc.

In its 20th year, Oxendine Publishing produces three magazines including *Student Leader*, *Florida Leader* for high school students, and *Florida Leader*, which sponsors the 16th annual “Florida College Student of the Year Award” program, the 14th annual “Best of Florida Schools” awards, and features the “Top Florida Leadership Training” review. Visit www.floridaleader.com for details.

###