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## **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Student Named Finalist for the 2004 Florida College Student of the Year Award**

Gainesville, Fla (04-04) – Matt Collier, a sophomore in aerospace engineering with a 3.84 GPA at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, is one of seven finalists statewide for the 2004 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

Collier and 19 other students from colleges and universities across Florida will share \$65,000 in scholarships and prizes and will be honored Friday, April 16 at an awards ceremony and press conference at the Capitol Building in Tallahassee.

Collier was selected from 78 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 17 years of recognizing outstanding Florida College students for their campus leadership, academic excellence, and financial self-reliance.

Collier wanted freshmen to be confident, active leaders on campus. This led him to promote Task Force One, a program that makes first-year students directly involved in the SGA. The student voice has also been strengthened by Collier's ability to build strong relationships with the administration and with the student body itself. "I've made every effort to set an example of a servant-leader," he says. "It makes a powerful statement to roll up my sleeves and do the 'dirty work' with the rest of the team."

Collier serves as a resident assistant and a student representative on the board of trustees. He has been instrumental in preventing a tuition increase for students at ERAU. During his presidency, he has lobbied to implement construction plans for an activities lounge on campus.

Collier also serves as a chair of the ICUF Student Alliance. In addition, he helps make plans for city policy by working on the Collegiate Events Committee for the City of Daytona Beach. “He’s a strong, passionate, and persuasive speaker,” says Dr. Glenn Dorn, aerospace studies chairman. “Matt’s activism has left a permanent mark on ERAU.”

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