



CONTACT:

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

Florida Southern Student Named Finalist for the 2004 Florida College Student of the Year Award

Gainesville, Fla. (04-04) – Cathalain Tobin, a junior in mathematics/computer science at Florida Southern College with a 3.87 GPA, is one of seven finalists statewide for the 2004 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

Tobin 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.

Tobin 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 its 17th year of recognizing outstanding Florida college students for their campus leadership, academic excellence, and financial self-reliance.

As a freshman senator of FSC's Student Government Association, Tobin fought hard to make the SGA active, "not just rubber-stamp whatever the executive council wants done," says Dr. Carole Obermeyer, vice president for student life. Her momentum continued throughout her sophomore year and hasn't stopped since then. By being elected SGA executive vice president, she was able to focus on specific issues including campus recycling. Tobin's abilities as a leader made her SGA president for the 2003-2004 school year. She took the lead in managing SGA's "chaotic" finances, showing the student body that SGA was accountable. She also

opened the doors of SGA to the campus media and has written letters to *The Southern* (FSC's student newspaper), to involve students in campus issues. In addition, she has organized events through the Association of Campus Entertainment to unite student groups and organizations.

Tobin is also involved in helping her community. She has collaborated with United Way of Central Florida and volunteers through several different organizations. Her role as coordinator of volunteers and events for the Polk County Parks and Recreation Department earned her recognition as a Who's Who Among Polk County Volunteers in 2003.

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 21st 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 this year's winners.