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## **Eckerd College Student Named Finalist for the 2005 Florida College Student of the Year Award**

Gainesville, Fla. (03-28) – Craig Altemose, a junior in international relations at Eckerd College with a 4.0 GPA, is one of seven finalists for the 2005 Florida College Student of the Year Award.

Altemose and 19 other students from colleges and universities across Florida will share \$65,000 in scholarships and prizes and will be honored Friday, April 8 at an awards ceremony and press conference at the Capitol Building in Tallahassee.

Altemose 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 18 years of recognizing outstanding Florida college students for their campus leadership, academic excellence, and financial self-reliance.

Serving as a Student Government leader throughout his college experience, Altemose has shown that an essential component of effective leadership is compassion. In the human rights

club the Alliance of Concerned Individuals, Altemose and other students raise awareness about AIDS, drive students to the polls on election day, and try to improve the working conditions for campus employees. Over a two year span, the club has grown to a membership of 50 active participants. Director of Campus Activities Fred Sabota holds Altemose's efforts in high esteem. "It's one of the most influential and efficient clubs on Eckerd's campus because of Craig's direct influence," he says.

Altemose also cares about the freshmen. He created and oversees the Honors Mentoring program, which partners freshmen honors students with upperclassmen honors mentors so that young students can better adjust to college life. His program is the model for future campus-wide mentoring programs.

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 22<sup>nd</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 other finalists.