



Important Information for Honorees

*Regarding the 2003 Florida College Student of the Year
Leadership Retreat and Awards Ceremony*

3/5/03

The whole team at *Florida Leader* magazine and College Student of the Year, Inc. desires for this experience to be pleasant, enjoyable, and rewarding, and want to do everything in our power to serve you as the 20 finest campus leaders in Florida.

If you have any questions regarding this exciting awards program, retreat, and ceremony, please contact us at info@studentleader.com or by calling 352-373-6907.

■ *Florida Leader* magazine will announce the overall winner of the prestigious **2003 Florida College Student of the Year Award** at an awards ceremony and press conference in Tallahassee on **Friday, April 11, 2003** promptly at **1:30 p.m.** The event will be held on the 22nd floor of **The Capitol Building** in downtown Tallahassee.

The actual program will last approximately one and one-half (1 1/2) hours and refreshments will be available before and after. Official photos will be taken immediately after the ceremony. Please arrive no later than 12:30 p.m., as the TV crew from Sunshine Network will be conducting interviews with each honoree before the ceremony. You may bring as many family members and friends as you wish. Video and still cameras are welcome.

■ **Finalists are required to attend.** Should you be chosen as “Student of the Year” or as first runner-up, please be prepared to give a short speech of three to five minutes. In this speech, discuss what being named “Florida College Student of the Year” will mean to you, including how you can use this honor to influence and encourage other students across the state.

Parents, friends, school administrators, faculty, and staff are welcome and encouraged to attend with you. **There is no limit on the number of guests who can attend with you. Attendance for each finalist is mandatory.**

■ **Honorable mention winners are required to attend.** All honorable mention winners in attendance will be recognized individually during the program. Parents, friends, school administrators, faculty, and staff are welcome and encouraged to attend. **There is no limit on the number of guests who can attend with you. Attendance for each honorable mention winner is mandatory.**

■ **Transportation and Lodging Costs.** Finalists and honorable mention recipients are responsible for their own expenses. However, nearly all previous honorees have received the support of their colleges in paying for travel and accommodation expenses to attend.

Most students and their families travel to Tallahassee on Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning to participate in the mandatory leadership retreat beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday.

The Doubletree Hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport. In addition, the Capitol Building and some restaurants are within easy walking distance of the hotel.

■ **Directions.** Please consult the map in the *Tallahassee Visitor's Guide*, which will be mailed to you shortly, for directions to Tallahassee, the DoubleTree, and The Capitol Building.

■ **Hotel Accommodations.** Rooms will be available at the DoubleTree Hotel (DoubleTree Tallahassee, 101 South Adams St., Tallahassee, FL 32301-7774). A special room rate of \$139.00 plus tax is available. **You must confirm your reservations by March 19, 2003.** After March 19, the hotel may be forced to release the block of rooms our organization has tentatively reserved for this event.

Please call the hotel directly at 850-254-5000 or the toll-free number, 1-800-222-8733 to make your reservations. Mention that you're with the "Florida College Student of the Year group" and the arrival date of April 10 to get the discounted rate.

The hotel's normal check-in time is 3 p.m., but you may be able to check in before then if a room is available. The hotel will allow you to store your luggage there in a secure and monitored place while you attend the Friday afternoon awards ceremony, if needed. Please call Marie Long, director of sales and marketing, at 850-224-5000, ext. 7255 if you have any questions about the DoubleTree hotel.

■ **Prizes.** Scholarship checks and many of the prizes will be disbursed immediately after the awards reception. You will be required to sign acknowledging receipt of the prizes and checks.

■ **Attire.** Please wear appropriate business attire for the awards ceremony. *Business casual attire also is appropriate for all activities and workshops during the leadership retreat.*

■ **At the Event.** When you arrive at the 22nd floor of The Capitol Building, sign in at the reception table, seat your party, and enjoy the refreshments. You will be given a schedule of events and instructions about your role in the proceedings. Please plan to arrive on the 22nd floor by 12:30 p.m., allowing time before to find parking. We will provide you with details on nearby free and paid parking soon.

■ **Media.** At the ceremony, members of the media, including a crew from Sunshine Network which is producing a show based on the awards, will be present and may want to speak with you and shoot photos and video. Please be prepared to answer questions about yourself, your campus and community activities, and your school.

■ **Leadership Retreat.** The seventh annual "Leadership Retreat," sponsored by *Florida Leader* magazine, will be held all-day Thursday, April 10 at the DoubleTree Hotel. All honorees are required to attend. The event is designed to help you and Florida's other top 20 finest campus leaders share ideas.

The retreat will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, with workshops, networking time, and lunch. *All other meals are on your own.* Please let us know if you have special dietary needs.

There's no cost for honorees to attend the leadership retreat, which is for the honorees exclusively.

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