



7TH GRADER MICAELA LOWMAN OF CLEWISTON WINS GOVERNOR'S RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST AND FOUR-YEAR FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – January 12, 2011 – One local student's words will have a significant impact on her future. Micaela Lowman of Clewiston has been awarded one of three **Governor's Recognition Scholarships** by Superintendent Richard Murphy at a recent Hendry County School Board Meeting. Micaela, a seventh grader at Clewiston Middle School, received a 4-Year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the **Florida Prepaid College Foundation**.

Valued at approximately \$15,000, the Florida Prepaid scholarship covers four years of tuition and local fees at a Florida College of Micaela's choosing. The Governor's Recognition Scholarship initiative began in 2006, using private donations, with the goal of providing a college scholarship to at least one child in each county in the state. It is granted annually to middle school students who compose outstanding essays on the legacy of a past Florida governor.

This year, seventh and eighth grade students in select counties were challenged with the prompt: "Choose one former governor of Florida and describe his most significant impact on the Sunshine State and your life today."

Micaela writes about Governor Lawton Chiles and his impact on class sizes in the state's education system. She notes that although the initiative was controversial, it has "made it easier for [her] to get one-on-one help on a particular subject from [her] teachers." Micaela credits the Governor for creating an environment in which there are fewer distractions to divert attention away from students trying to learn. She says, "If he were alive today, I would say 'thank you' for recognizing the importance of restricting class sizes and seeing through all the criticism to what really matters – the youth of the State of Florida."

"This scholarship contest encourages students to immerse themselves in our state's rich history," Board Chairman Duane Ottenstroer said. "It inspires them to learn about their past in preparation for their future."

The Foundation is a direct-support organization of the Florida Prepaid College Board, which operates Florida Prepaid College Plans, the largest and most successful prepaid college plan program in the nation. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than 30,300 scholarships, including Project STARS Scholarships supported by the State Legislature.

For more information on the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, please visit floridaprepaidcollegefoundation.com and for more information on the Florida Prepaid College Plans, please visit myfloridaprepaid.com or call 1-800-552-GRAD (4723).

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For media inquiries, please contact:

Casey L. Fisher
Florida Prepaid College Foundation
(850) 922-6740
casey.fisher@myfloridaprepaid.com

Caitlin Levens or Kelly Davis
The Zimmerman Agency
(850) 668-2222
kdavis@zimmerman.com

About The Florida Prepaid College Foundation:

The Florida Prepaid College Foundation is the 501(c)(3) direct support organization for the Florida Prepaid College Board. Foundation scholarships provide a way for students who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to go to college, a guarantee of support to help them along the way. Many of the recipients are the first in their family to attend college. The Foundation was created in 1990 as a public/private partnership. Businesses, organizations and community groups may purchase contracts through the Foundation, allowing scholarship recipients to benefit from the advantages and guarantee offered by the Florida Prepaid College Plans. The Foundation provides prepaid college scholarships to economically disadvantaged students who are at risk of dropping out of school and to other deserving students in need of assistance.