



**JONATHAN LEATH OF BLOUNTSTOWN WINS  
GOVERNOR'S RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST AND  
FOUR-YEAR FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – February 11, 2011 – One local student's words will have an impact on his future. Jonathan Leath of Blountstown has been awarded one of three **Governor's Recognition Scholarships** at a recent Calhoun County School Board Meeting. Jonathan, a 14-year-old student at Blountstown Middle School, received a four-year Florida Prepaid College Scholarship provided by the **Florida Prepaid College Foundation**, and hopes to be the first in his family to earn a college degree.

Valued at approximately \$15,000, the Florida Prepaid scholarship covers four years of tuition and local fees at a Florida College of Jonathan'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."

Jonathan writes about Governor Lawton Chiles' commitment to women and children in the state of Florida. He says without Governor Chiles and the programs he set in place, he "may never have taken [his] first breath." Jonathan speaks of the Governor's creation of the Women Infant and Children program that "provides food as well as immunization for kids like [himself] from a week old until five years of age." Jonathan believes that the Governor's dedication to furthering education for children with a learning disability, such as himself, gives him hope to succeed in his educational career. Jonathan also appreciates Governor Chiles' honesty about his personal struggles. He wrote, "Anyone who shares something that private with so many, is special."

"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](http://floridaprepaidcollegefoundation.com) and for more information on the Florida Prepaid College Plans, please visit [myfloridaprepaid.com](http://myfloridaprepaid.com) or call 1-800-552-GRAD (4723).

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**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.