



SUNSHINE STATE SCHOLARS

*Recognizing outstanding students in
science, technology, engineering and mathematics.*

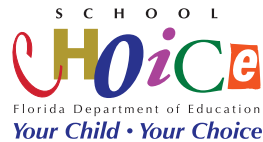
MAY 2-3, 2024
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Thank you

TO OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



Funds **BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS**



FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE



UNF UNIVERSITY of NORTH FLORIDA



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY





A community of learning

Together, we can make a positive change in our neighborhoods. State Farm® is proud to join our neighbors to support the 2024 Florida Sunshine State STEM Scholars.



State Farm, Bloomington, IL



Dear Scholars and Honored Guests:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 Sunshine State Scholars conference. Sunshine State Scholars is a unique and celebrated program that has recognized outstanding student achievement for more than a quarter-century.

You are now part of this proud tradition.

You are also part of Florida's tradition of excellence. Florida is the Education State, a place where students come first, and academic excellence is both supported and honored. As the Florida Commissioner of Education, it is my mission to ensure access to a world-class education for all students, and I am thrilled that you are making the most of your educational opportunities.

Each year, Florida school districts select students like you, top 11th graders in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The Florida Department of Education, the Florida Education Foundation and generous sponsors are proud to host you and your parents for an extraordinary two-day program. This year's program will bring more than 100 high school STEM scholars like yourself together from across the state to conduct a "think tank" on tough Florida challenges. This includes problem-solving activities and presentations from industry and research experts.

You will also connect with employers in the STEM fields and meet with representatives from Florida's nationally ranked higher education system – ranked #1 in the country for the past seven years in a row. This includes members of the State University System, the Florida College System and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

Florida is leading the way in education, and the Sunshine State Scholars program is an opportunity to take your education to the next level. I encourage you to get the most out of this hallowed event as we celebrate your hard work, academic accomplishments and the potential you represent for our state. Welcome, and congratulations.

Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr.



You are the talent of tomorrow!

We are proud to support Florida's Sunshine State Scholars and to recognize the achievements of our state's top students.

Congratulations to the 2024 Sunshine State Scholars!



Visit floridaprepaidcollegefoundation.com to learn more about the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.



SUNSHINE STATE SCHOLARS

HISTORY OF SUNSHINE STATE SCHOLARS

The Sunshine State Scholars program began in 1997, and was designed to recognize students, teachers and schools that achieved excellence in mathematics and science. High school seniors participated in a statewide competition that used their basic knowledge of mathematics, statistics, physics, chemistry and biology to solve interdisciplinary problems requiring independent and creative thinking. Students competed and were recognized at district and regional levels. The ten Regional Scholars completed a challenging written exam and presented a research paper on a single topic and, from this group, a Statewide Scholar was named. The Regional Scholars and the Statewide Scholar were recognized at a ceremony where each Scholar formally paid tribute to his/her outstanding teacher.

Mathematics and science experts from education, business and government served on the all-volunteer steering committee, overseeing the development of the assessment tools and monitoring and executing the competitions. For

many years, Dr. William H. Caldwell from the Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida was the driving force and inspiration behind Sunshine State Scholars. Dr. Caldwell worked diligently to secure annual funding. When other sources were no longer available, Senator Stephen R. Wise, Education Commissioner Eric J. Smith and the Florida Education Foundation championed the program, continuing its service and recognizing our best and brightest.

Today, the program has grown from its original format. Each school district throughout Florida selects its top 11th grade student(s) in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) based on established criteria. These Scholars, along with their parents, convene to receive recognition for their achievements. They also have opportunities to meet with representatives from Florida's colleges and universities, learn about STEM-related programs of study and internships, and reinforce why Florida is the best state to learn and pursue an exciting career.

HIGHER ED RECRUITMENT FAIR PARTICIPANTS

Daytona State College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Flagler College
Florida A&M University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gateway College
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida International University
Florida Polytechnic University
Florida Southern College
Florida SouthWestern State College
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Florida State University
Lake-Sumter State College
New College of Florida
Nova Southeastern University
Palm Beach State College
Pensacola State College
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rollins College
Santa Fe College
St. Petersburg College
St. Thomas University
State Farm
Stetson University
University of Central Florida
University of Florida
University of North Florida
University of South Florida
University of Tampa
University of West Florida
Valencia College



THURSDAY, MAY 2

4:00 – 11:00 p.m.	HOTEL CHECK IN	Hotel Front Desk
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	SCHOLAR REGISTRATION Scholars check in and pick up event materials at the event registration desk in front of the ballroom.	Convention Center Reg Desk
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	HIGHER ED RECRUITMENT FAIR <i>Hosted by the State University System of Florida, the Florida College System and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida</i> Scholars and their parents meet with representatives from Florida higher education institutions to learn about programs of study, internships, and career opportunities throughout Florida.	Seminole Ballroom
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	SCHOLAR DINNER <i>Hosted by Helios Education Foundation</i> Scholar dinner and networking activity. Parents pick-up scholars at 9:00 p.m.	Seminole Ballroom

FRIDAY, MAY 3

7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST <i>Hosted by SeaWorld</i>	Seminole Ballroom
8:15 – 8:50 a.m.	MORNING GENERAL SESSION <i>Hosted by TECO</i>	Seminole Ballroom
9:00 – 12:15 p.m.	WORKSHOPS & RECRUITMENT FAIR	
ALACHUA-GULF	HAMILTON-OKEECHOBEE	ORANGE-WASHINGTON
9:00 a.m. Career Panel	9:00 a.m. Financial Aid	9:00 a.m. College Readiness
10:05 a.m. College Readiness	10:05 a.m. Career Panel	10:05 a.m. Financial Aid
11:10 a.m. Financial Aid	11:10 a.m. College Readiness	11:10 a.m. Career Panel

CAREER PANEL

Hosted by the Florida Education Foundation

Industry experts share their thoughts on careers in their workplace with time for the scholars to ask questions.

Seminole Rooms

COLLEGE READINESS WORKSHOP

Hosted by Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Family and Community Outreach

Learn tips to improve interview, presentation, workforce and other skills.

Sun-n-Surf Rooms

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

Hosted by the Florida Lottery

Learn the process for securing financial aid.

Space Coast Ballroom

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.	SCHOLAR LUNCH <i>Hosted by Kyra Solutions</i> Parents are on their own for lunch and return at 4:00 p.m. to pick up scholars.	Seminole Ballroom
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY <i>Hosted by the Bureau of Standards & Instructional Support</i> Scholars will participate in hands-on mathematics and science based activities.	Seminole Ballroom
4:00 – 5:45 p.m.	SCHOLAR BREAK Parents and scholars have time to relax before awards ceremony.	
5:45 – 6:45 p.m.	DINNER <i>Hosted by AT&T</i>	Seminole Ballroom
6:45 – 8:00 p.m.	AWARDS CEREMONY <i>Hosted by Florida Lottery, Florida Prepaid College Foundation & State Farm</i> Welcome Keynote Formal Recognition of Scholars and Awards Presentations Special Recognition Group Photo	Seminole Ballroom



Alachua
Katie Yue He
Buchholz High School

Alachua
Joyce Huang
Eastside High School

Baker
Ava Rose Manalo
Baker County High School

Bay
Lily Sundari Cobb
J.R. Arnold High School

Bay
John McLoughlin
Bay High School

Bradford
Nivaiah Foster
Bradford High School

Brevard
Aneesha Guna
Edgewood Jr/Sr High School

Brevard
Saaketh Kesireddy
West Shore Jr/Sr High School

Broward
Samuel Auster
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

Broward
John Kurian
Deerfield Beach High School

Broward
Krisztina Tolotti
Fort Lauderdale High School

Calhoun
Joseph Ethan Hobbs
Blountstown High School

Charlotte
Ava Louise Hall
Charlotte High School

Citrus
Joshua Martin M. Sevilla
Lecanto High School

Clay
Riley Cate Chapman
Ridgeview High School

Clay
Angel Zheng
Ridgeview High School

Collier
Casper Khan-Bridgers
Naples High School

Collier
Bailey Mathews
Palmetto Ridge High School

Columbia
Nathan Rahim Chowdhury
Columbia High School

DeSoto
Isabelle Marie Zolkos
DeSoto County High School

Dixie
Ava Jane Huffman
Dixie County High School

Duval
Abram Hsieh Caccam
Samuel W. Wolfson High School

Duval
Sophia Lin
Samuel W. Wolfson High School

Duval
Efrat Ohayon
Samuel W. Wolfson High School

Escambia
Charles Benson
Pensacola High School

Escambia
Beatrice Bunnell
Washington High School

FAMU Lab School
McClain Marie Stroud
FAMU DRS High School

FAU Lab School
Mark Ralph Zagha
Florida Atlantic University High School

Flagler
Angelina Manjarres
Flagler Palm Coast High School

FLVS
Alex J. Lopez
Florida Virtual High School

Franklin
Mya Bennett Hucekba
Franklin County School

FSU Lab School
Keegan Flury
Florida State University Schools

Gadsden
Yakira Norwood
Gadsden County High School

Gilchrist
Aaron Nathaniel Gartin
Trenton High School

Glades
Yanevi Jose Matias
Moore Haven High School

Gulf
Jordan C. Pippin
Port Saint Joe High School

Hamilton
Kasey Lynn Carter
Hamilton County High School

Hardee
Ava Grace Roberts
Hardee Senior High School

Hendry
Enrique Acosta
Clewiston High School

Hernando
Katelyn Carlsen
Hernando High School

Hernando
Lillian Groudas
Nature Coast Technical High School

Highlands
Jude Rowan Halpern
Lake Placid High School

Hillsborough
Miyaz Ansari
Steinbrenner High School

Hillsborough
Eric Luo
Plant High School

Hillsborough
James R. Watt
Riverview High School

Holmes
Savannah Goodman
Holmes County High School

Indian River
Simon Schwartz
Vero Beach High School

Jackson
Brianna Adams
Graceville School

Jefferson
Desmond Whitfield
Jefferson K-12 School

Lafayette
Alyssa Nicole Jones
Lafayette High School

Lake
Ana Sofia Montealegre
Leesburg High School

Lake
Kelli Ong
Eustis High School

Lee
Bhavika Agarwal
Fort Myers High School

Lee
Ezekiel Dube-Garrett
Cypress Lake High

Lee
Sophia Dupeyron
Cape Coral High School

Leon
Kaitlyn Boulos
Lincoln High School

Leon
Vaneesha Sinha
James S. Rickards High School

Levy
Jolene Renee Watkins
Chiefland Middle High School

Liberty
Juliette Shuler
Liberty County High School

Madison
Erin Burnett
James Madison Preparatory High School

Manatee
Sheena Kurakula
Braden River High School

Manatee
Amy Lu
Manatee High School

Marion
Sanjay Karthik
Vanguard High School

Marion
Douglas Carson VanDeursen
Bellevue High School

Martin
Rachel Pennenga
South Fork High School

Miami-Dade
Jasmine Godoy
Miami Senior High School

Miami-Dade
Maia D. Gueron
Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High

Miami-Dade
Emily M. Sanchez
BioTECH Senior High School

Monroe
Rachel Renee Rusch
Coral Shores High School

Nassau
Kate Vitori
Fernandina Beach High School

Okaloosa
Tina Le
Choctawhatchee High School

Okaloosa
Marguerite Raymond
Crestview High School

Okeechobee
Devon Alexis Ferrell
Okeechobee High School

Orange
Katerina Kring
Timber Creek High School

Orange
Jacob Polito
Winter Park High School

Orange
Bruno Rodriguez-Mendez
Ocoee High School

Osceola
Jayden Graham
NeoCity Academy

Osceola
Josiah Yeater
Celebration High School

Palm Beach
Jennifer G. Han
Palm Beach Central High School

Palm Beach
Sejal Jain
Suncoast Community High School

Palm Beach
Daniel Robbert
Wellington Community High School

Pasco
Diana Bisekeeva
Kirkland Ranch Academy of Innovation

Pasco
Abhinav Katkooari
Land O' Lakes High School

Pasco
Karolina S. Porcelli
James W. Mitchell High School

Pinellas
Christopher Steve Meza
Hollins High School

Pinellas
Carter Timmons
East Lake High School

Pinellas
Tuongvy Nguyen
Hollins High School

Polk
Sahil Ande
International Baccalaureate at Bartow High School

Polk
Jason Bueno Iduyan
Winter Haven High School

Polk
Juan Quintero Jr.
Frostproof Middle-Senior High School

Putnam
Madalene Grace Hodge
Palatka Jr-Sr High School

Santa Rosa
Caden Walker Crow
Pace High School

Santa Rosa
Emma Katherine Fulford
Gulf Breeze High School

Sarasota
Ananya Kakayadi
Venice High School

Sarasota
Emmy Li
Pine View School

Seminole
Josephine Danielle Lim
Hagerty High School

Seminole
Nicolas Treland
Lake Mary High School

St. Johns
Daniel Benton
Beachside High School

St. Johns
Arianna Rahmathulla
Ponte Vedra High School

St. Lucie
Herlandy Marcelin
Treasure Coast High School

St. Lucie
Ella Treadway
St. Lucie West Centennial High School

Sumter
Jose Manuel Carvajal-Beltran
Wildwood Middle High

Suwannee
Isaac Robert Pitts
Branford High School

Taylor
John Michael Weed
Taylor County High School

UF Lab School
Lily Marie-Pinner Caldwell
P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School

Union
Aubrie Muse
Union County High School

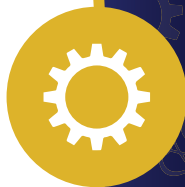
Volusia
Noah Isaacson
DeLand High School

Volusia
Sonia Trope
Atlantic High School

Wakulla
Genna Dietrich
Wakulla High School

Walton
Walker A. Rivard
Magnet Innovation Center

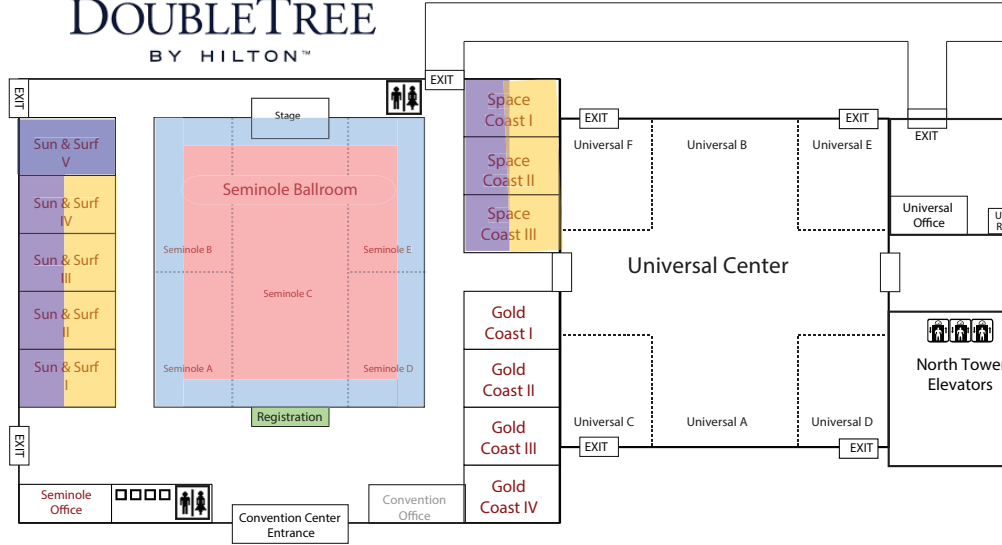
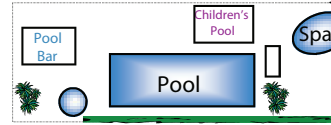
Washington
Asher Alton Holt
ChIPLEY High School



*Congratulations
Scholars!*



DOUBLETREE
BY HILTON™



CONVENTION CENTER



To Vineland Rd

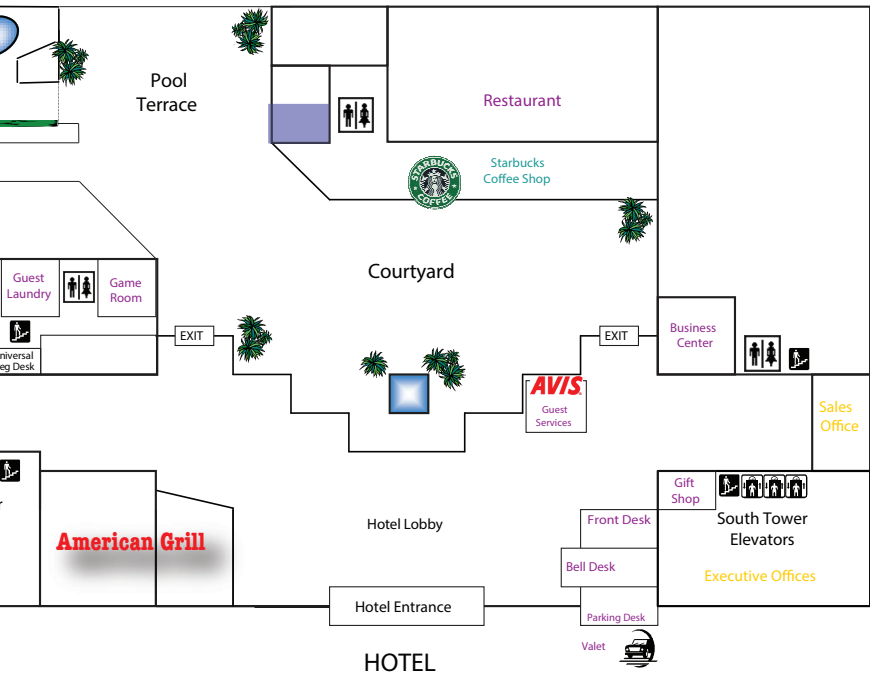


Convention Center Parking

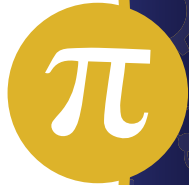
- Staff Office (Thursday-Friday)
- Thursday Evening Scholar Check In & Friday Information Desk
- Thursday Higher Ed Recruitment Fair
- Thursday Scholar Dinner and Friday Meals & General Sessions
- Friday Morning Workshops
- Friday Afternoon Scholar Activity

To Kirkman Rd






 To Major Blvd



Congratulations Scholars!

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EDUCATION
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PLAY IT FORWARD

EVERY FLORIDA LOTTERY GAME PURCHASE BENEFITS EDUCATION



Since the Florida Lottery was established in 1988, it's been our mission to maximize contributions to public education, and provide life-changing opportunities to players and students throughout the State of Florida.

Our unwavering commitment to education continues to move forward with tremendous success. To date, we have contributed more than \$46 billion to K-12 schools, state colleges and universities, as well as to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Bright Futures was created in 1997 by the Florida Legislature, and it assists students pursuing their dreams of a postsecondary education. In total, the Florida Lottery has contributed more than \$8 billion to the program, helping nearly one million Floridians attend college on a Bright Futures Scholarship.

As one of the most efficient lotteries in the country, we're proud of the fact that we've given more than \$1 billion annually to public education for the last 21 consecutive years. We're looking forward to continuing that tradition alongside our players, as a portion of every Florida Lottery game purchase goes directly to that goal.

We thank you for helping us reach every one of these meaningful milestones, and continue to celebrate the impact they have on countless students in our communities. Remember, every time you play, you play it forward.



floridalottery.com/education

SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NATALIE ALDAY
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9-12 Mathematics Specialist

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AMANDA ELSHEMI
Fine Arts Program Specialist

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Chancellor

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM

KATHY HEBDA
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KAREN DENNIS
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What we do together in the next five years will impact student outcomes for the next 25 years.



Ensure students are reading at grade level by third grade



Increase college enrollment



Increase attainment of two- and four-year degrees

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Education Foundation

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www.helios.org

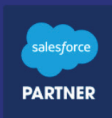


CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR ACADEMIC SUCCESS!

Your hard work and passion in STEM is truly an accomplishment. As a digital transformation leader in government, we applaud your dedication in innovation and education. Well done, 2024 Sunshine State Scholars!



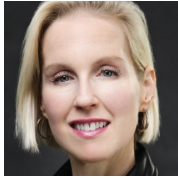
kyrasolutions.com



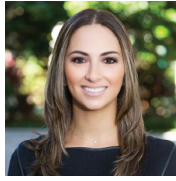
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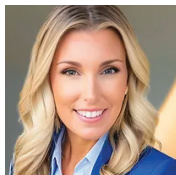
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EX-OFFICIO
President/CEO Consortium of Florida Education Foundations



ADRIANNA SWEARINGEN
EX-OFFICIO
2024 Florida Teacher of the Year



LINDSEY ZANDER
Executive Director Florida Education Foundation



ASHLEY WILKINSON
Deputy Director Florida Education Foundation



FLORIDA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

KAREN DENNIS
Assistant Florida Education Foundation

MISSION

As a valued partner in education, the Florida Education Foundation invests in high achievement for every student to contribute to Florida's globally competitive workforce.

VISION

Every Florida student graduates from high school ready for postsecondary education and a career.





Connecting to Learn

To shrink the homework gap and ensure Florida's students have the connections they need to succeed, AT&T is expanding its fiber-optic broadband service to better serve Floridians. We have invested nearly \$3.4 billion in the last 3-years and expanded AT&T Fiber to more than 2.2 million homes & small businesses.

Whether students are learning at home or in the classroom, having access to affordable high-speed internet and devices helps ensure successful learning outcomes.

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SCHOOL
CHOICE
Your Child • Your Choice