OPPORTUNITY, HOPE, SUCCESS — MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Since 1990, the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, with support from the State of Florida and our private and public partners, has presented close to 19,000 scholarships to Florida students. Through these scholarships, the Foundation is providing Florida’s disadvantaged youth and other children in need, with the opportunity to change the course of their lives and the inspiration to dream.

Most of the Foundation’s scholarship recipients are from low-income and other families in need. The Foundation is offering hope where there was none.

Backed by the dedication and support of the Foundation Board and our partners, 93 percent of these students are in school, are staying drug- and crime-free, and are preparing for college. Many will be the first in their families to graduate high school and attend college. These students are discovering a greater sense of self-respect and accomplishment, and they are succeeding. Already, there have been 2,167 Foundation scholarship students who have enrolled in college.

PROJECT STARS

Project STARS – Scholarship Tuition For At-Risk Students – is the Foundation’s primary program. Now in its 13th year, Project STARS is successfully redirecting the lives of low-income students who are at risk of dropping out of school. The majority of Project STARS students, 53.7 percent, are minorities, and 47.2 percent are from single-parent homes. Most Project STARS recipients have faced overwhelming challenges and personal hardships in their young lives. Project STARS is helping them overcome the adversity and uncertainty in their lives. Project STARS is giving these children the incentive to excel and new hope for the future.

Project STARS is the Foundation’s largest scholarship program. Since its inception, over 13,100 tuition and local fee scholarships have been purchased, totaling $66.5 million. This year, with the $3.6 million appropriated by the Florida Legislature and the dollar-for-dollar contributions from our private partners, the Foundation was able to purchase 1,586 Project STARS scholarships.

FOUNDATION INNOVATIONS

The Foundation’s primary objective is to provide the opportunity of a college education to low-income, at-risk students through Project STARS. The Foundation Board, however, continuously looks for other new and innovative ways to reach out to the community and open the door to higher education. The Foundation Board has developed scholarship programs celebrating diversity, public service, heroism, and other educational initiatives.
In 2003, the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, along with Governor Jeb Bush and First Lady Columba Bush, sponsored the third annual Black History Month Scholarship essay contest and the first annual Hispanic Heritage Month Scholarship essay contest. Both programs are designed to challenge students in grades K-12 to reflect on the impact that African-American and Hispanic role models have had on their lives.

For the fourth year, the Foundation Board presented a scholarship in honor of the late Governor Lawton Chiles and his commitment to public service. The Foundation selects one Florida public school each year, and the teachers from that school nominate students based on financial need, academic performance and personal character. Each student submits an essay about the contributions Governor Chiles made to improve the health and well-being of Florida’s children, and a personal letter describing why they should be chosen for the scholarship.

Recognizing those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms, the Foundation presented scholarships to the children of Florida’s military personnel killed in Iraq. The Foundation’s Fallen Soldier Scholarship program is believed to be the only one of its kind in the nation.

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

The Foundation’s success is a tribute to the accomplishments of our students and the support of our many partners. I want to thank Governor Jeb Bush, the Florida Legislature, the businesses, education foundations, teachers, mentors and parents for their collaboration and their dedication to the Foundation and to Florida’s most valuable resource, our children. Through our combined efforts, we are providing opportunity and hope, and Florida’s children are succeeding! Together, we are making a difference!

Cordially yours,

Stanley G. Tate
Chairman, Florida Prepaid College Foundation
December 2003

The Foundation is providing Florida’s disadvantaged youth with the opportunity to change the course of their lives and the inspiration to dream.
The Florida Prepaid College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) direct support organization, created in 1990 as the charitable arm of the Florida Prepaid College Board. The Board administers both the Florida Prepaid College Plan and the new Florida College Investment Plan. Currently, all Foundation scholarships are purchased through the Florida Prepaid College Plan. Financially guaranteed by the State of Florida, the Florida Prepaid College Plan locks in the cost of college — today. The Florida Prepaid College Plan is the single largest program of its kind in the country with more than 972,000 plans statewide.

The Foundation provides scholarships to disadvantaged students who are at risk of dropping out of school and to other deserving students in need of assistance. Since inception, the Foundation has purchased over 18,500 Florida Prepaid tuition and local fee scholarships and 2,167 Foundation scholarship recipients have enrolled in college.

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation has purchased 15,835 tuition scholarships since inception. The Foundation offers four types of tuition scholarships:

- 2+2 Plan for 60 credit hours at a community college and 60 credit hours at a state university
- 2-Year Community College Plan for 60 credit hours
- 2-Year Community College Plan for 72 credit hours
- 4-Year University Plan for 120 credit hours at a state university

The tuition scholarship covers matriculation (tuition), building, capital improvement and financial aid fees. The 2+2 plan remains the most popular plan, representing 68 percent of all scholarships purchased.

LOCAL FEE SCHOLARSHIPS

To date, 2,723 Foundation local fee contracts have been purchased. The Florida Prepaid local fee plan is optional and may be purchased as a supplement to the Florida Prepaid tuition plan. The local fee plan covers student activity and service, health and athletic fees. Local fee plans may be purchased for a child who is in the eighth grade or younger, and must be the same type plan as the tuition plan.

The Foundation has purchased almost 19,000 tuition and local fee scholarships.
FOUNDATION FACTS

- The Florida Prepaid College Foundation provides a tax-deductible opportunity for businesses, community groups and individuals to purchase prepaid college scholarships for Florida children.

- The Florida Prepaid College Plan has an annual enrollment period from October to January each year. Through the Foundation, scholarships may be purchased anytime during the year.

- Foundation scholarships may be purchased for an unnamed beneficiary (child) prior to matriculation, giving the donor the flexibility to reassign the scholarship to another child if the original beneficiary (child) does not use the scholarship.

- Foundation scholarships may be purchased for children through the 12th grade. The child must be a Florida resident at the time of selection and award.

- The cost of the scholarship is based on the type of plan and the projected college enrollment year. Foundation scholarships must be paid for in a single lump-sum.

- There is no application process. Donors simply provide the Foundation the type of plan they want to purchase, the projected college enrollment year and a summary of the scholarship award criteria. The Foundation coordinates the purchase and the administration of the scholarship.

- The donor typically selects the student. The Foundation will provide assistance with identifying qualified students.

- Foundation scholarships can be used at any of Florida’s 11 public universities or 28 community colleges. The value of the scholarship can also be transferred to most private colleges in Florida, select technical schools in Florida and most out-of-state colleges.

- All other terms of participation are the same as the Florida Prepaid College Plan.

- When Foundation students are ready for college, they receive a Florida Prepaid College Plan Student Identification Card. The student presents this card when registering for classes. The college will bill the Florida Prepaid College Plan, and the Florida Prepaid College Plan will pay the college directly for the fees covered by the scholarship.

Foundation scholarships can be purchased anytime during the year.
Project STARS, Scholarship Tuition For At-Risk Students, is the Foundation’s largest program representing over 13,100 of all tuition and local fee contracts purchased by the Foundation. Project STARS is a matching scholarship program funded annually by the Florida Legislature and private donations. Project STARS targets low-income students who are at-risk of dropping out of school and gives them the motivation and confidence to pursue a college education.

PROJECT STARS PARTNERS

Project STARS has a distinguished group of private partners including Take Stock In Children, public school foundations, school districts, community groups, business groups and individuals who are committed to providing the children of Florida with guidance and educational opportunities.

One of our exceptional partners, Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation has been a Florida Prepaid College Foundation scholarship partner since 2001, awarding over 41 Project STARS scholarships to Okaloosa County students.

Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation has an amazing 100 percent Project STARS success rate. With only three staff members, the Foundation successfully provides support and encouragement for students and their families. Each student is matched with a caring adult mentor, and provided with educational activities that promote student success. Students, family members and mentors also participate in organized social events, fostering a cohesive and supportive environment.

The Okaloosa County community at-large provides both human and financial resources, which are drawn from business and industry, and civic organizations. Scholarships are funded through more than 40 organizational, corporate and individual donations.

“Scholarships, mentors and hope are the formula for our success,” says Ray Sansom, Executive Director of the Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation.

PROJECT STARS STUDENTS

Project STARS recipients must be Florida residents, economically disadvantaged (eligible for the free and reduced lunch program), and at risk of dropping out of school.

Project STARS students sign an agreement with our program partners agreeing to progress academically, meet school attendance requirements, abide by their school’s code of conduct, remain drug-and crime-free and meet with a mentor on a regular basis. The program partners monitor students’ progress and provide guidance and support throughout their middle and high school years.

The donor selects the students that receive Project STARS scholarships and may establish additional criteria, subject to Foundation approval.

PROJECT STARS ANNUAL SURVEY

The Foundation conducts an annual survey of participating partners to measure the progress of Project STARS students. Again, the survey indicates that Project STARS is making a difference in the lives of its recipients!

Project STARS targets low-income students who are at-risk of dropping out of school and gives them the motivation and confidence to pursue a college education.
STUDENT SUCCESS

Again this year, the numbers are amazing with 93 percent of Project STARS students meeting the Project STARS requirements and preparing for college!

Only 7 percent of Project STARS students have involuntarily terminated from the program due to their failure to meet the Project STARS requirements. On average, 9 percent of Project STARS students have voluntarily terminated from the program. Students that terminate voluntarily have moved out of state or have received other college scholarships.

STUDENT RACE

Project STARS continues its commitment to diversity. Today, 53.7 percent of Project STARS scholars are minority students. Of all students, 46.3 percent are white, 32.4 percent are African-American, 16.4 percent are Hispanic, 3.4 percent are Asian and 1.5 percent are other ethnicities.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Project STARS recipients come from varied family backgrounds. Our annual survey shows that 47.2 percent of Project STARS students are from single-parent homes, 7.1 percent are living with extended family members and 2.9 percent are from migrant families.

Project STARS mentors are making a difference in the lives of Florida’s children.
Project STARS is funded by an annual appropriation from the Florida Legislature and matching funds from private donors.

Each February, private donors pledge the amount of money that they will raise in their local communities and contribute to Project STARS for the next fiscal year. Contingent upon legislative funding, the Foundation provides a dollar-for-dollar match, up to $50,000 per donor, and the balance is allocated on a pro-rata share based on individual pledges. The donors submit their contributions, and the Foundation purchases the scholarships throughout the fiscal year.

Thanks to the commitment of the Florida Legislature and our private partners, the Project STARS Scholarship Fund reached an impressive $66.5 million this year.

Almost every year since inception, donor pledges have exceeded the amount appropriated by the Legislature. Unmatched pledges now total over $46.7 million. Project STARS was not funded in 1991/1992, 1992/1993 and 1993/1994.

### FUNDING

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Almost every year since inception, donor pledges have exceeded the amount appropriated by the Legislature. Unmatched pledges now total over $46.7 million. Project STARS was not funded in 1991/1992, 1992/1993 and 1993/1994.
Our Foundation has **four new Project STARS partners** this year for a total of 81 education foundations, school districts, community groups, businesses and corporations. All are dedicated to making the dream of a college education come true for Florida’s youth.

100 Black Men of Tallahassee
Alachua County Schools Foundation
American Association of University Women
Bay Education foundation
Brevard Schools Foundation
Broward Community College Foundation
Broward Education Foundation
Carnival Cruise Lines Foundation
Central Florida Chapter IBCW
Charlotte Education Foundation
Chipola Junior College Foundations
Citrus County Education Foundation
Collier County Education Foundation
Communities in Schools of Bradford County
Communities in Schools of Jacksonville
Communities in Schools of Nassau County
Communities in Schools of Palm Beach
Communities in Schools of Putnam County
Cruise Industry Charitable Foundation
Daytona Beach Community College Foundation
Division of Unemployment Compensation
Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando
Edison Community College Foundation
Flagler Education Foundation
Florida Association of State Troopers Foundation for Excellence in Escambia County
Foundation for Lee County Public Schools
Foundation for Orange County Public Schools
Foundation for Osceola County Schools
Futures of Volusia-Take Stock in Children
Handy, Inc.
Hillsborough Education Foundation
I Have a Dream Foundation of Miami, Group II
I Have a Dream Foundation of Boynton Beach
I Have a Dream Foundation of Carver Estates
Ida Baker, Department of Education
Indian River Community College, Indian River County
Indian River Community College, Martin County
Indian River Community College, Okeechobee County
Indian River Community College, St. Lucie County
Lake City Community College Foundation
Lake County Schools Foundation
Lake-Sumter Community College
Leon County Schools Foundation
Levy County Schools Foundation
Madison County Foundation
Mainland High School
Manatee County Schools Foundation
Miami-Dade Community College Foundation
Monroe County Education Foundation
North Florida Community College Foundation
Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation
Pasco Education Foundation
Pasco-Hernando Community College Foundation
Pinellas County Education Foundation
Polk Education Foundation
Public Education Foundation of Marion County
Quest for Kids of Collier County
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Santa Rosa Educational Foundation
School District of Okaloosa County
Seminole Community College Foundation
Seminole County Public Schools
Take Stock in Children of Broward County
Take Stock in Children of Miami-Dade County
Take Stock in Children of Flagler County
Take Stock in Children of Hendry County
Take Stock in Children of Martin County
Take Stock in Children of Sarasota County
Take Stock in Children of St. Johns County
Take Stock in Children of Taylor County
Take Stock in Children of Desoto, Hardee, Highlands Counties
Tallahassee Community College Foundation
Taylor Education Foundation
The Haven
The Hundred Club of Indian River County
The Immokalee Foundation
Uncommon Friends Foundation
Valencia Community College Foundation
Wakulla Academic Boosters Association
Walton County Schools Foundation

**Since inception, private pledges for Project STARS matching funds total $80 million.**
Project STARS scholarships are providing students with the incentive to work hard and stay focused on their goals for the future. They are rising to the challenge. They are succeeding!

Our partners are the connection between the Florida Prepaid College Foundation and Project STARS students. Our partners select the students and track their progress. They provide Project STARS students with the mentoring, tutoring and other necessary support services.

Alachua County Take Stock In Children

Amanda Eck received her Project STARS scholarship in Marion County. Her mother was tragically killed in an auto accident and she moved to Alachua County to live with her sister. In Alachua, Amanda was paired with a new mentor, Linda Jenkins. Her mentor from Marion County, however continued to keep in touch with Amanda, providing her with academic and emotional support.

Amanda is a hard-working, goal-oriented and tenacious young woman and an inspiration to all who know her. While attending high school, Amanda worked three jobs and still managed to maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Although Amanda has faced many challenges in her lifetime, with the incentive of her Project STARS scholarship and the support of both her mentors, she has stayed focused on her educational goals. Amanda is enrolled in Santa Fe Community College and is pursuing a degree in business administration.

Brevard Schools Foundation

Sean Graham is a 2003 graduate of Eau Gallie High School and is attending Brevard Community College thanks to his Project STARS scholarship. Raised by a single parent, Sean was paired with a wonderful mentor, Al Schroter, who helped guide him through his high school years.

Sean hopes to one day become a professional pilot. With his positive attitude and strong sense of direction, Sean’s dream of flying is certain to come true.

Communities in Schools of Nassau County

Ashley Robinson, a junior at Fernandina Beach High School, is a well-rounded young lady. Ashley is a member of the National Honor Society and maintains a 3.61 GPA. She is co-captain of the color guard and enjoys running track.

Outside of school, Ashley participates in the Upward Bound Program at Florida Community College in Jacksonville and was named Miss Upward Bound 2003. Ashley is a member of Youth in Action and traveled to California this year to attend the national conference. She would like to study and work in the aerospace engineering field.

FUTURES of Volusia County

Holly Schaeffer graduated from DeLand High School in 2003 with a 3.8 GPA, winning the School Advisory Council’s Award for Academic Excellence.

Holly is not only an excellent scholar; she was a star player on her high school varsity soccer team and will play collegiate soccer at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach. Holly plans to study engineering.

“When I became Amanda’s mentor, I felt first hand the personal joy of helping her through her senior year and into college.”

Linda Jenkins, Alachua County Take Stock In Children Mentor

“Holly can do anything she puts her mind to, including breaking new ground for women in both sports and her career,” says Chip Walker, Executive Director of Futures of Volusia County - Take Stock In Children.
Madison County Foundation

**Shajuandrine Bridges** is an eighth grade student at Madison County Central. Shajuandrine is an outstanding student with a 4.0 GPA in honors courses. She is also the 2003 Madison County Spelling Bee winner.

Her principal, Mel Roberts, commends Shajuandrine for her excellent study habits, initiative and her award-winning smile.

South Florida Community College Foundation

**Gibran Nunez** is a remarkable young man! Born in Mexico, Gibran and his family moved to Florida when he was 3 years old. He lives with his mother, who is a single parent, and two older brothers and a younger sister. Gibran, now a junior at Lake Placid High School, received his Project STARS scholarship in the sixth grade.

Gibran maintains a 4.45 GPA, excels in mathematics, has been in the National Honor Society for three years and is junior class president. Gibran plays on his school’s football team and enjoys working on computers in his spare time. His dream is to attend the University of Florida to study law.

This fall, Gibran was among 10 Florida students who were selected to attend the national Migrant and Immigrant Conference in Washington, D.C. During his visit to Washington, he visited historical monuments and heard various speakers address their concerns about the health and education of the nation’s migrant population.

Take Stock In Children of Palm Beach

**Britney Wright** is a senior at John I Leonard High School and received her Project STARS scholarship as a freshman. Britney is an exceptional student with a 3.3 GPA. She is vice president of the Student Council and plays varsity basketball, track and flag football. Britney is dual enrolled at Palm Beach Community College in the evening and hopes to attend FAMU to pursue a career in medicine.

**Jennifer Zapata** is also a senior at John I Leonard High School in Palm Beach and received her Project STARS scholarship in her freshman year. Jennifer is an extraordinary student and dedicated to achieving her goal of becoming a computer engineer. Jennifer is dual enrolled at Palm Beach Community College and works evenings in Information Technology for the School District of Palm Beach County. Jennifer feels fortunate to have her scholarship and gives back to her community by mentoring for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Project STARS scholarships are providing students with the incentive to work hard and stay focused on their goals for the future.
The Florida Prepaid College Foundation Board is dedicated to the development and implementation of innovative programs designed to assist children throughout Florida attain their goal of a college education. Sponsored by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, these scholarships are purchased with donations from private sector corporations, organizations and individuals. Scholarship beneficiaries are selected based on a variety of reasons, such as merit, hardship and condition.

**LAWTON CHILES SCHOLARSHIP**

For the fourth consecutive year, the Florida Prepaid College Foundation and the Lawton Chiles Foundation awarded a four-year university tuition and local fee scholarship honoring the late-Governor Lawton Chiles and his commitment to a better future for Florida's children.

Annually, the Foundation selects a public school in Florida to participate. Teachers are asked to nominate students, based on financial need, academic performance and personal character, to apply for the scholarship.

Each student is required to write a letter explaining why they should be chosen for the scholarship and an essay about Governor Chiles and his dedication to public service. The Florida Prepaid College Foundation and The Lawton Chiles Foundation review the applications and select a winner.

This year, the committee chose James L. Davis III, a fifth grade student from Lawton Chiles Elementary School in Gainesville. Florida Prepaid College Foundation Chairman Stanley G. Tate and Tandy Chiles-Barrett presented the award to James at an end-of-the-year honors ceremony at his school.

In his essay, James wrote about Governor Chiles’ commitment to education and his triumph against Big Tobacco. “Governor Chiles might just be the best governor Florida ever had. Governor Chiles believed that the key to Florida's success is to increase the quality of our children's education because Florida's future depends on it,” says James L. Davis III.

Known as “Trip” by his friends, James is a very energetic, bright young man. He enjoys baseball, playing the bells and drums in his school band, is on the honor roll and plans to go to college to study veterinary medicine.

“With this scholarship, James will be able to follow his dream of becoming a veterinarian.”

*Jennifer Davis, James’ Mother*
BLACK HISTORY MONTH SCHOLARSHIP

For the second consecutive year, the Florida Prepaid College Foundation sponsored the annual Black History Month essay contest for K-12 students throughout Florida. The scholarship program raises awareness of the historic contributions and accomplishments of African-American leaders.

The theme was “How Florida’s African-American Leaders or Groups During the Civil Rights Era, 1948-1969, Impacted My Life?” A panel of educators, community, and civic leaders judged the essays on their content, insight and correlation to the theme.

This year’s winners were Rashawn Harris, a senior from Bushnell; Arielle Janay Lloyd, an eighth grade student from Ft. Pierce; and Zyria Alexander, a fifth grade student from Miami.

Each of the winners received a Florida Prepaid College Foundation four-year university tuition and local fee scholarship, during a reception at the Governor’s Mansion.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SCHOLARSHIP

This year, the Florida Prepaid College Foundation sponsored the first annual Hispanic Heritage Month essay contest for K-12 students across Florida. The essay contest celebrates Hispanic family, culture and heritage.

The theme for the essay contest was “Celebrating the Hispanic Family: How my family has helped me appreciate reading.”

The winners were Stephanie Ruiz, a tenth grader from Miami; Yamilette Zuluaga, a sixth grader from Tampa; and Sergio Galindo-Hamsho, a fifth grader from Gainesville. Each student received a four-year university tuition and local fee scholarship.

“Only with books are you free to envision the world any way you choose to.”

Stephanie Ruiz, Hispanic Heritage Month Scholarship Recipient
FOUNDATION PRIVATE DONORS

The Florida Prepaid College Foundation has 45 private donors including community groups, businesses, hospitals, churches and individuals, that are committed to making access to a college education a priority in their communities. These donors purchase Foundation scholarships without the use of state matching funds, allowing them to set their own selection criteria.

Christ Episcopal Church Charitable Foundation

The Christ Episcopal Church Charitable Foundation in Ponte Vedra Beach has been a private donor since 1994 and has awarded 24 Foundation scholarships to deserving high school seniors from Fletcher High School and Nease High School in the Jacksonville Beach area.

Students eligible to receive a Christ Episcopal Church Charitable Foundation scholarship must have a scholastic record in the upper quartile, qualify for acceptance to a four-year university, be involved in extra-curricular activities at school, church and in their community, have high moral character and have financial need. The Christ Episcopal Church Charitable Foundation raises money for its scholarship fund through events including an annual community golf tournament and a House Tour and Patrons’ Party.

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Florida Prepaid College Foundation provides scholarships to other children who have special circumstances that may keep them from going to college. The Foundation Board, on a case-by-case basis, reviews petitions for these special scholarships.

DONORS

- Advanced Automated Welding
- Big Pine and Lower Key Rotary
- Black History Month Scholarship
- Boselli Foundation
- Boys and Girls Club of Broward County
- Burdines
- Busch Gardens
- Childbirth Education Association
- Christ Episcopal Church Foundation
- Coastal Conservation Association
- Commercial Products Corporation
- South Florida Educational Credit Union
- DeVoe Cadillac Trust
- Do the Right Thing-Lee County Sheriff’s Office
- Doctors Hospital of Sarasota
- First Orlando Foundation
- Florida Association of School Resource Officers
- Florida Education Foundation
- Gulf Coast Transcription
- Hialeah Hospital
- Hillsborough County Firefighters Charities, Inc.
- Huffman & Johnson Enterprises
- Humana Medical Plan, Inc.
- Igstaedter Trust
- Madigan Foundation
- Okaloosa/Walton Works
- Orange Center Elementary School
- Orange Park United Methodist Church
- Palm Beach County DARE
- Palms West Hospital
- Parkway Regional Medical Center
- Pelican Bay Rotary
- Pilot Club of Cape Coral
- Polk Works
- Rotary Club of Crestview
- Rotary Club of Gulf Beaches
- Rotary Club of the Upper Keys
- Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach
- South Florida Educational Credit Union
- Spina Bifida Association of Jacksonville
- Victim’s First
- Wachovia
- Walt Disney World Company
- Workforce One

For more information about becoming a Foundation Sponsor, call 1-800-552-4723, prompt 3.
This year, the Florida Prepaid College Foundation created a scholarship program for the children of service men and women who have died while serving our country in Iraq.

On December 10, 2003, the first 16 scholarships were presented by Governor Jeb Bush, General James Hill, Florida Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher and Stanley G. Tate, Chairman of the Florida Prepaid College Foundation. The ceremony took place at United States Southern Command Headquarters in Miami. Each child was presented a Florida Prepaid four-year university tuition, local fee and one-year dormitory scholarship.

Also attending were Adjutant General of Florida Douglas Burnett, U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Thomas R. Morris, Florida Prepaid College Foundation Board members F. Philip Blank and former Senator Ron Silver, Florida Prepaid College Plan Board member Mike Agganis and military personnel from various branches of the armed services.

Unfortunately, there will be others who will not return home. The Foundation pledges to continue to provide scholarships for the children of Florida soldiers who are lost in Iraq, as long as the conflict continues. It is our hope that these scholarships give comfort to the families in knowing that their children's education is secure and that their futures are bright.

“In these brave men are heroes to their country, their families and to all of us. They have been take from us, but through the support of the military, their families and the Florida Prepaid College Foundation, these men and their dedication to our freedoms will never be forgotten.”
General James Hill, Commander, U.S. Southern Command

“Just to look in the eyes of those children and think about how their lives have been altered, it’s a good reminder of the sacrifices that men and women are making to protect our freedom.” Governor Jeb Bush

“Education is a guiding light, providing our children the opportunity to reach their dreams. While the voices of these heroes have been silenced, their love for their families and their hope for their children's success lives on.”
Stanley G. Tate, Chairman of the Florida Prepaid College Foundation

In Memory Of The Heroes Who Fought For America’s Freedoms, Dreams And Ideals

Lt. Col. Charles Buehring
SSG Justin Galewski
Cpl. Armando Gonzalez
SSG Frederick Miller
CW2 Timothy Moehling
SPC Rafael Navea
SFC Paul Smith
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Executive Director, Tallahassee

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