



FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

~ Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Coca-Cola reward students' hard work ~

Orlando, Fla., April 4, 2019 – Today, Chancellor Kathy Hebda of the Florida College System honors 158 students from across the state who have been named to the 2019 [All-Florida Academic Team](#) for their academic achievement, leadership and service to the community. Fifteen students on the team also earned scholarships ranging in value from \$1,000 to \$7,500 for demonstrating a commitment to academic excellence, intellectual rigor and community service.

Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran said, “The Florida College System is recognized as a national model for preparing students for life and the workforce, so it is no surprise that 158 of our colleges’ students were selected as recipients of these distinguished awards. I am pleased to congratulate these students and to thank Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Coca-Cola for investing in our students’ and their future careers.”

“I am thrilled to recognize these students who represent the very best in our colleges,” said Chancellor Kathy Hebda. “Because of their determination to achieve academic excellence and their passion to serve others, these students are role models in their families and communities and examples for all of us. I am proud to celebrate their accomplishments and the colleges that have helped them succeed.”

The following Florida students have been selected by Phi Theta Kappa as recipients of national scholarships:

Hites Transfer Scholar, All-USA Academic Team and New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar: Alejandro Garcia, Miami Dade College

Alejandro Garcia has the unique distinction of representing Florida as a 2019 [Hites Transfer Scholar](#), member of the [All-USA Academic Team](#) and [New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar](#). Garcia is one of only 10 Hites Transfer Scholarship recipients, Phi Theta Kappa’s most prestigious and largest scholarship awarded to members who are preparing to transfer to senior institutions in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and rigor, engagement in college and community activities, and leadership. As a Hites Scholar, Garcia will receive a \$7,500 scholarship. Based on his academic excellence, leadership and service, he is one of only 20 students in the country to be selected as a member of the All-USA Academic Team and will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. Garcia has also been named a New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar and will receive an additional \$2,250 scholarship, a result of having the highest All-USA Academic Team application score in Florida.

New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar: Emily Wixtrom, Northwest Florida State College

The New Century Workforce Pathway Scholarship recognizes the most outstanding workforce-bound student from each state and provides them with scholarships to complete their associate degree, obtain a certification, or purchase the tools or other trade-specific items needed to enter the workforce. Emily Wixtrom is one of 52 students in the country named a New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar and will receive a \$1,250 scholarship.

Coca-Cola Academic Team

Nominees are selected to the Coca-Cola Academic Team based on their outstanding academic rigor, grade point average, academic and leadership awards, and engagement in college and community service. Gold scholars are awarded with a \$1,500 scholarship, silver scholars receive a \$1,250 scholarship and bronze scholars receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

- Gold Scholars
 - Citlali Gutierrez, Chipola College
 - Ansleigh Walters, Chipola College
 - Annie Edwards, Florida College
 - Levi Scheller, Hillsborough Community College
 - Zachary Lambert, Northwest Florida State College
 - Natalia Alvarez Collazo, Seminole State College of Florida
 - Jane Lozada Foster, Seminole State College of Florida

- Silver Scholars
 - Claudette Goico-Montes De Oca, Broward College
 - Victoria Ilesanmi, Hillsborough Community College
 - Maria Samboni, Miami Dade College
 - Joseph Culbreath, Palm Beach State College

- Bronze Scholars
 - Rachael Hobbs, Palm Beach State College
 - Kisha Whitehurst, Keiser University

###

Today's award ceremony is sponsored in part by the Florida College System Foundation and the Florida Lottery. The Florida Lottery provides more than \$34 billion to education and sends more than 808,000 students to college.

For more information about the Florida College System, visit www.floridacollegesystem.com.