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Mary Lee Kiracofe, Executive Director

December 1, 2011

Dear Members of Florida's STEM Industry,

We are excited to invite you to the 2012 Sunshine State Scholars program scheduled for February 16-17, 2012, at the Doubletree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando.

This is an outstanding opportunity to meet Florida's top STEM 11th graders and recruit them to pursue a career in your field, introduce them to your company, and share information about internship possibilities.

Simply put, Sunshine State Scholars is a STEM talent retention program that treats Florida's top academic scholars like blue chip athletes and recruits them to stay in Florida for their postsecondary education and career.

Accompanying the Scholars will be their parents and teachers—hand selected by the Scholars—who have had a significant influence on their lives. Anticipated attendance at the two-day program is 350.

We also invite you to come early and showcase a recent Innovation & Discovery at the Welcome Reception on Thursday evening, Feb 16.

- I have attached a brief overview of the program and a draft agenda.
- Bring employees and colleagues who can discuss why your company—and Florida-- is an exciting place to pursue a STEM-related career.
- Space is limited; we encourage you to reserve your space soon.

For more details and information about reserving a booth, [follow this link](#).

If you need to make overnight accommodations at the Doubletree Hotel, call 800-327-2110 and indicate that you are part of the group, "Sunshine State Scholars." You may also electronically reserve your room via this link to the [Doubletree](#).

View a short video of the 2011 program now on [YouTube](#).

If you have questions, please give us a call at 850-245-9655. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in February!

Mary Lee Kiracofe
Executive Director



Overview

Established in 1997, **Sunshine State Scholars** originated as a statewide math and science competition. It has matured into an exciting comprehensive initiative recognizing Florida's top students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), introducing them to exciting internship and career opportunities, and recruiting them to attend Florida's Colleges and Universities—increasing the likelihood that they will join Florida's future workforce.

Each school district throughout Florida selects and names their top 11th grade scholar based on established academic criteria. In February 2012, these scholars, their parents and teachers will convene in Orlando to

- Receive recognition for their achievements;
- Meet STEM industry leaders, learn about career possibilities, and see examples of the latest innovations and discoveries in Florida;
- Talk with representatives from Florida's Colleges and Universities about special programs of study and internship opportunities; and
- Experience why their home state is the best place to learn and pursue an exciting career.

Sunshine State Scholars is a collaboration between the Florida Education Foundation (FEF), the State University System, the Florida Division of Colleges, and the Florida Department of Education.

Learn more about exciting opportunities for participation and support. Contact Mary Lee Kiracofe at 850-245-9655 or e-mail: marylee.kiracofe@fldoe.org.

Today's scholars are tomorrow's talent!



2012 Sunshine State Scholars

February 16-17

Doubletree Hotel at Entrance to Universal Orlando
5780 Major Blvd Orlando, FL 32819
800-824-8798

Thurs. February 16

3:00 – 5:30 p.m. Scholar arrival and check-in

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Scholars, Parents, Teachers, Sponsors, and Representatives from Higher Education and STEM industries

also featuring

INNOVATIONS & DISCOVERIES

Guests eat, mingle and observe informal demonstrations of Florida's latest scientific and technological advances

Fri. February 17

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST

9:00 – noon

CONCURRENT EXHIBITS & RECRUITMENT

Meet with representatives from Florida Colleges and Universities - both private and public-- and learn about amazing career opportunities from leaders in Florida's STEM Industry

OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS

9:00 am - Professional Development for Teachers tbd

10:00 am - Show Me the Money: Financial Assistance in Today's Market

11:00 am - The Competitive Edge: Strategies for Submitting a Successful College Application

12:30 p.m.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Each Scholar to be formally recognized
Guests include parents, teachers, sponsors, representatives from Florida Colleges and Universities and STEM Industries
Guest Speaker – to be announced

2:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Attire is business casual

[To reserve your exhibit space, click here](#)

[View a YouTube video](#) of the 2011 Sunshine State Scholars program