



Alan J. Levy, Chair
Dominic Calabro, Vice Chair
Emily Howell Rogers, Secretary
Bruce O'Donoghue, Treasurer
Mary Lee Kiracofe, Executive Director

December 1, 2011

Dear 2012 Sunshine State Scholar,

Congratulations on being selected as a 2012 Sunshine State Scholar! A program that began as a science and math competition has evolved into an exciting initiative that recognizes each school district's top student in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and provides opportunities for those scholars to meet with college, university, and industry leaders.

We invite you, your parents, and a teacher from your school—selected by you—to come to Orlando on February 16-17, 2012 for a special awards presentation and recruitment fair. You will meet with representatives from Florida's public and private colleges and universities to find out why Florida is THE place to pursue your postsecondary education and begin your career. Industry leaders will also be present to share with you some exciting internship opportunities as well as the latest innovations and discoveries in Florida STEM research.

The Florida Education Foundation will provide accommodations for you, your parents, and teacher at the Doubletree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando on Thursday, Feb 16. The Foundation will also provide a stipend to defray travel costs to Orlando for your family and your teacher. In addition, the Foundation will provide dinner on Thursday, Feb 16, and breakfast and lunch on Friday, Feb 17 at the hotel.

Our partners at Universal Orlando will also provide you and your parents a one day/two park pass for use on Friday afternoon, Feb 17 OR Sat, Feb 18. (3 total passes per Scholar). You may elect to extend your stay at the Doubletree, and we have enclosed more information.

For planning purposes, it is important that you confirm your attendance well in advance. Please complete the attached information sheet and permission forms and return them to Mary Lee Kiracofe of the Florida Education Foundation no later than **December 16, 2011**. Mrs. Kiracofe's contact information is marylee.kiracofe@fldoe.org and you may also contact Mrs. Kiracofe at 850-245-9655 with questions. If you elect not to participate, an alternate from your school district will be invited.

I look forward to meeting you in February and hope that you will experience why Florida is the best place to learn and pursue an exciting career.

Sincerely,


Alan J. Levy, Chair



2012 Sunshine State Scholar Information Form

February 16-17, 2012

Doubletree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN TO THE FLORIDA EDUCATION FOUNDATION NO LATER THAN **Friday, December 16, 2011**. E-mail this completed form to marylee.kiracofe@fldoe.org or fax it to 850-245-9642. If you have any questions please contact Mary Lee Kiracofe or 850-245-9655.

- The Florida Education Foundation has reserved a block of rooms and will provide overnight hotel accommodations for you, your parent(s), and a teacher at the DoubleTree Hotel on Thursday, February 16, 2012.
- **It is your responsibility to contact the Doubletree and reserve your hotel room before January 15, 2012.** After that date, we cannot guarantee that a room will be available. Call 1-800-327-2110 and indicate you are a Sunshine State Scholar. You may also reserve your room via this electronic link to the [Doubletree](#).
- Each Scholar and his/her parent(s) will share one room.
- After the event, the Foundation will provide a stipend to your parents and your teacher to defray travel costs to and from Orlando.
- In addition, the Foundation will provide meals during the event including dinner on Thursday evening, February 16 and breakfast and lunch on Friday, February 17.
- Universal Studios will provide all Scholars and their parent(s) a one day/two park pass for use on Friday afternoon, February 17 OR Saturday, February 18. (3 total passes per Scholar)
- If you wish to extend your hotel stay throughout the weekend, the Doubletree will offer a reduced rate of \$111/night. You must notify the hotel of your extended stay when you make your initial reservation. An extended stay will be at your own expense.
- Additional tickets for siblings to attend the program are available. Contact us at the number below.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

SCHOLAR'S NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ District: _____

NAME OF PARENT(S) WHO WILL ACCOMPANY YOU TO ORLANDO:

Address: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

Evening phone number: _____

Email: _____

NAME OF TEACHER FROM YOUR SCHOOL WHO WILL ATTEND:

Address: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

Evening phone number: _____

Email: _____



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.

*Guest arrival and check-in
Complete pre-conference survey

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

WELCOME RECEPTION

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

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 a.m. – *Professional Development for Teachers tbd*

10:00 a.m. – *Show Me the Money: Financial Assistance in Today's Market*

11:00 a.m. – *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

**Scholars and parents have the option to continue their stay in hotel at a reduced rate and a one day/two park pass to Universal for use on Fri, Feb 17 or Sat, Feb 18.

****Scholars, please return your completed Scholar Information Form, Parental Consent, and Video Release forms that are included with this agenda.***

The Foundation will cover the cost of your hotel room for Thurs, Feb 16, but YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL BEFORE 5:00 pm JANUARY 15, 2012. Call 1-800-327-2110 and indicate that you are a Sunshine State Scholar.

*****You may extend your stay at the hotel, but it will be at your own expense.***

***Attire for this program is business casual.
No shorts, t-shirts, flip flops, please.***



Florida Department of Education

Florida Department of Education Parental Consent



Student Name: _____

Address: _____

School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Event: SUNSHINE STATE SCHOLARS, a program of the Florida Education Foundation

Location: Doubletree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando Studios

Dates: February 16-17, 2012

With this release, I confirm to *The Florida Department of Education* and the *Florida Education Foundation* that I have made arrangements for my child to attend the Sunshine State Scholars Program on February 16-17, 2012. I have also arranged for my child to have appropriate supervision during their stay at the Doubletree Hotel in Orlando. Furthermore, I acknowledge that the Department and Foundation assume no responsibility for the supervision and well being of my child while in attendance, and release and hold harmless the Department and Foundation from any claims of liability connected with my child's participation in this program.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return this completed form to: Mary Lee Kiracofe
Florida Education Foundation
325 West Gaines Street, Room 1524
Tallahassee, FL 32399
marylee.kiracofe@fldoe.org
fax 850-245-9642



Florida Department of Education

Florida Department of Education VIDEO RELEASE AGREEMENT



Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

District: _____

School: _____

Principal's Name: _____

With this release, I grant the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Education Foundation permission to use my image, voice, and content of my presentation in video productions, and print or web-based publications for non-profit, educational purposes.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please place a check next to the applicable statement:

- I am currently a student under the age of 18.*
- I am currently a student 18 years of age or older.
- I am an adult over the age of 18.

***Please note that a parent or guardian must sign this agreement in addition to the student if the student is presently under the age of 18.**

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return this completed form to: Mary Lee Kiracofe
Florida Education Foundation
325 West Gaines Street, Room 1524
Tallahassee, FL 32399
marylee.kiracofe@fldoe.org
fax 850-245-9642

SUNSHINE STATE SCHOLARS 2012

Additional Notes for Scholars and Parents

- Scholar Information & Consent forms are due December 16, 2011.
- Once we receive the name and contact information of the teacher who will attend with you, we will send additional details directly to the teacher.
- Make your Doubletree Hotel reservation no later than January 15, 2012.
Call 800-327-2110 Group name: Sunshine State Scholars
Or, make your room reservation via this electronic link to the [Doubletree](#).
- Your accommodations on Feb 16, 2012 will be covered by the Foundation, but the hotel will ask you to provide a credit card for incidentals.
- Parking at the hotel is \$9/day and will be your own expense.
- You may purchase additional tickets for guests/siblings to attend the Sunshine State Scholars program which will include admission to the Thursday Welcome Reception, Friday Breakfast, Awards Luncheon and Recruitment Fair. Call our office at 850-245-9692 for details.
- Universal Orlando will provide three complimentary one day/two park passes for each Scholar. These passes may be used Friday, Feb 17 or Saturday, Feb 18. You may purchase additional admission tickets from Universal.
- Get ready for a wonderful experience that will open up a world of opportunity! View a video of the 2011 program now on [YouTube](#).

