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Florida Department of Education  Florida Education Foundation  Florida Department of Education

SCHOOL CHOICE
Florida Department of Education
Your Child - Your Choice

2021 SUNSHINE STATE SCHOLARS | 2
Without the next generation there’s no next generation of innovation.

At Lockheed Martin, when we envision the future, we see a world of never-ending possibility. But that future will never be realized unless we prepare today’s students for tomorrow’s challenges. That’s why it is vitally important for young people to study science, technology, engineering and math. It is our hope and our mission to inspire the next generation of innovators to dream big. And make big things happen.

Learn more at lockheedmartin.com/community

Lockheed Martin. Your Mission is Ours.
Dear Sunshine State Scholars and Honored Guests:

On behalf of the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Education Foundation, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2021 Sunshine State Scholars celebration. Congratulations to the students selected to represent their school district as a 2021 Sunshine State Scholar. Each year, we bring together the top 11th grade STEAM students from across the state to recognize them for their hard work and dedication, and the scholars should take immense pride in being among this group.

Each Sunshine State Scholar has achieved significant academic accomplishments and I am confident that they will continue to excel and grow into leaders who may one day be called on to help solve future challenges our nation might face. I commend each scholar for their extraordinary achievements.

To each scholar, participation in this event will present opportunities for you to meet new friends and create peer groups that can be maintained throughout your future endeavors. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities to network with your peers, event sponsors and staff, as well as other honored guests. These connections will be very important to you and to your success as you plan to enter the next phase of your life.

We are honored to host this event along with statewide leadership. Our goal is to ensure that our scholars have an opportunity to learn and grow, not only with their friends, but professionally. I wish them the best on their journey to a successful career. Thank you for your commitment to your education and to your home state.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Richard Corcoran
Success begins with education. Inspired educators and advances in education technology are unlocking students' abilities to soar to new heights. Congratulations to the 2021 Sunshine State Scholars. Continue to soar!
A Brief 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 evolved from its original format. Each school district throughout Florida selects its top 11th grade student(s) in science, technology, engineering, art 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 STEAM-related programs of study and internships and experience why Florida is the best state to learn and pursue an exciting career.
Agenda

Sunday, June 27

4:00 - 11:00 p.m. Hotel Check In
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Scholar Registration
Scholars check in and pick up event materials at the event registration desk near the entrance to the Universal Center.

Monday, June 28

7:45 - 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast hosted by Helios Education Foundation
8:30 - 9:00 a.m. General Session & Opening Remarks hosted by Lockheed Martin
9:00 - 12:15 p.m. Workshops and Recruitment Fair

Higher Education Recruitment Fair
Scholars and their parents meet with representatives from Florida higher education institutions to learn about programs of study, internships, and career opportunities throughout Florida.

Financial Aid Workshop hosted by Florida Lottery
Learn the process for securing financial aid.

Writing Your College Application hosted by State University System
Learn how to write your best college application.

Alachua-Hardee Scholars
9:00 a.m. - Writing Your College Application
10:05 a.m. - Recruitment Fair
11:10 a.m. - Financial Aid

Hendry-Orange Scholars
9:00 a.m. - Financial Aid
10:05 a.m. - Writing Your College Application
11:10 a.m. - Recruitment Fair

Hernando-Washington Scholars
9:00 a.m. - Recruitment Fair
10:05 a.m. - Financial Aid
11:10 a.m. - Writing Your College Application

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Scholar Lunch hosted by Kyra Solutions and Limbitless Solutions
Parents are on their own. Please return at 3:30 p.m. for scholar pick up.
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.  SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  SCHOLAR BREAK
*Parents and scholars have time to relax before awards ceremony.

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.  DINNER hosted by AT&T Foundation and Florida Prepaid College Foundation

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  AWARDS SESSION hosted by AT&T Foundation and Florida Prepaid College Foundation
Welcome
Keynote
Formal Recognition of Scholars and Awards Presentation
Special Recognition
Group Photo
Alachua
Jeffrey Xue
Buchholz High School

Baker
Raymond Clines
Baker High School

Bay
Jonathan Walker
Rutherford High School

Bradford
Eden Chalker
Bradford High School

Brevard
Sid Antoine
Viera High School

Brevard
Om Patel
Eau Gallie High School

Broward
Shiv Patel
Deerfield Beach High School

Broward
Vishal Suresh
Cypress Bay High School

Broward
Isabella Yeung
Millennium 6-12 Collegiate Academy

Calhoun
Haylee Reisen
Altha Public School

Charlotte
Hunter Cobb
Lemon Bay High School

Citrus
Vincent Lahera
Lecanto High School

Clay
Keren Metelus
Ridgeview High School

Collier
Emilee Huynh
Naples High School

Collier
Karl Reiter
Gulf Coast High School

Columbia
Anelise Bullard
Fort White High School

DeSoto
Alan Santana-Mondragon
DeSoto County High School

Dixie
Maddison Robson
Dixie County High School

Duval
Jefferson Li
Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies

Duval
Avi Patel
Stanton College Preparatory School

Duval
Nicole Stover
Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies and Leadership

Escambia
Braden Close
West Florida High School of Advanced Technology

Escambia
Colin Gold
Pensacola High School

FAMU Lab School
Dareil Williams
FAMU Lab School

FAU Lab School
Satviki Singh
FAU High School

Flagler
Paul Grau
Flagler Palm Coast High School

Florida Virtual
Zachary Donaldson
FLVS Full Time 9-12

Franklin
Savannah Brannan
Franklin County School

FSU Lab School
Isabella Guerrero
Florida State University Schools

Gilchrist
Christina Franks
Trenton High School

Glades
Sean Osborne
Moore Haven Middle-High School

Gulf
Katie Shealy
Wewahitchka High School

Hamilton
Timothy Warfel
Hamilton County High School

Hardee
Treasure Camel
Hardee Senior High School

Hendry
Gage Hunt
LaBelle High School

Hernando
Misa Vivieros
Hernando High School

Highlands
Jacob Suępelle
Sebring High School

Hillsborough
Fatema Ashour
Leto High School

Hillsborough
Cody Basquill
Newsome High School

Hillsborough
Vivian Rao
Steinbrenner High School

Holmes
Ariana Andrews
Ponce de Leon High School

Indian River
Kayleen Diaz
Vero Beach High School

Jackson
Colby Williams
Marianna High School

Jefferson
Xander Ames
Jefferson K-12: a Somerset School

Lafayette
Seth Chandler
Lafayette High School

Lake
Isabelle Millman
South Lake High School

Lake
Ethan Rada
Eustis High School

Lee
Kassandra Macchia
North Fort Myers High School

Lee
Amy Meng
Fort Myers High School

Leon
Dylan Epstein-Gross
James S. Rickards High School

Levy
Coburn Hardee
Chiefland Middle High School

Liberty
Sara Brown
Liberty County High School

Madison
Halie Wetherington
Madison County High School
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<td>Anna Velten</td>
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<td>Samy Antifit</td>
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<td>Uday Goyat</td>
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<td>Andrea Ortiz Burgado</td>
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<td>Audrey Holley</td>
<td>Chipley High School</td>
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2021 SUNSHINE STATE SCHOLARS | 10
Special Appreciation to

The Florida Department of Education
Commissioner Richard Corcoran
Senior Chancellor Eric Hall
Chancellor Jacob Oliva, Division of Public Schools
Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality Dr. Paul Burns
Bethany Swonson
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Brett Tubbs
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Kelly Aaronson
Amber Baumbach
Patricia Duncan
Kenneth Edwards
Katrina Figgett
Alicia Foy
Dr. Tamara Gibson-Alonso
Ashley Harvey
Jennifer Infinger
Nancy Narvaez-Garcia
Erin O’Connor
Cathy Seeds
Courtney Starling
Daniel Ring
Daniel Moore, Chief, Bureau of Educator Certification
Tiffany Gary
Dr. Cassandra Brown, Director of Title IV, Part A
Vashalice Kaaba
Sandy Herzog
Sandy Tejada
Pedro Hernandez
Mercedes Rodriguez

State University System of Florida
Chancellor Marshall M. Criser, III

Events for Learning, LLC
Noëlle Bonard
Your hard work and passion in STEM is truly an accomplishment. As a digital transformation leader for government, we applaud your dedication to innovation and education. Well done, 2021 Sunshine State Scholars!

Education is an investment and not an expense. Education changes lives and strengthens communities. Helios Education Foundation proudly partners with the Florida Department of Education to recognize the outstanding achievements of our Sunshine State Scholars.

Learn more about Helios Education Foundation at www.helios.org
The Florida Education Foundation

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Mission Statement
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 Statement
Every Florida student graduates from high school ready for post-secondary education and a career.