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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NEWS

April 10, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

For more information, contact:

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Reception for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Winners

- The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award Recipient Reception
- Sunday, April 22, 4:30 p.m.
- Ragan Park Community Center, 1200 East Lake Ave., Tampa

Thanks to donations from Hillsborough County and City of Tampa employees, 26 high school graduates will receive the 2007 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarships. A total of \$26,000 will be awarded to the high school seniors who plan to further their education following graduation.

The recipients and their families will be honored at a reception Sunday, April 22 at 4:30 p.m. at the Ragan Community Center, 1200 East Lake Ave. in Tampa. The reception includes a short program and light refreshments. Hillsborough County Commissioner Mark Sharpe, District 7, will be the guest speaker.

Hillsborough County employees established the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund in 1988 to commemorate the life and legacy of the slain civil rights leader. Since that time, more than 400 deserving students -- regardless of race, creed or color -- have received more than \$500,000 in scholarship monies provided through voluntary payroll deductions and fund-raisers. City of Tampa employees joined the effort in 1992. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's office is a major sponsor of the scholarships. The awards are based on academic achievement, financial need and community service.

MEDIA: To schedule an interview with a scholarship recipient, please contact Carol Michel, Community Relations Coordinator, at 272-9515.

For more information, contact Joyce Russell, African American Affairs Liaison, at 276-2637.

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