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**FIRST COAST HISPANIC STUDENTS INVITED TO APPLY FOR COLLEGE FUNDS**  
– *Two organizations will award more than \$30,000 in college scholarships this October –*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Students of Hispanic descent who live on Florida’s First Coast are encouraged to apply for the 2009 “Achieving the Dream” Scholarships, to be awarded jointly by the Mayor’s Hispanic American Advisory Board (MHAAB) and the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (FCHCC) in October of 2009.

This year, MHAAB and the FCHCC will each present 8 students with \$2,000 scholarships during the “Achieving the Dream” community scholarship luncheon, to be held October 23, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Jacksonville.

“The Hispanic community is committed to ensuring Hispanic students earn college degrees. These students are our future and as college tuition continues to rise, our scholarships can help students stay in college who might not otherwise been able to do so,” said Giselle Carson, president of FCHCC.

This scholarship competition is open to all students of Hispanic descent, from Florida’s First Coast, who will be at least a college freshman during the fall term 2009. Applicants must check the FCHCC’s Web site and the MHAAB’s Web site for further scholarship requirements.

Applications can be found online at [www.fchcc.com](http://www.fchcc.com). The application requires a 250-word essay and proof of enrollment or pending enrollment at an accredited 2- or 4-year college or university. Applications can be completed on the website or sent to P.O. Box 16751, Jacksonville, FL 32245, and must be submitted by September 8, 2009.

**About the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

*The First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (FCHCC) was created to encourage and promote sound, ethical and successful business practices in the Hispanic community and to further the recognition of Hispanic heritage and culture through educational endeavors. The mission of the FCHCC is to assist all Hispanics in achieving success.*

**About the Mayor’s Hispanic American Advisory Board**

*The Mayor’s Hispanic American Advisory Board consists of members appointed by the Mayor to effectively recognize the concerns and desires of the Hispanic community in Jacksonville. The purpose of the Board is to provide a means by which the city may obtain information, guidance and ongoing comprehensive studies relating to its citizens of Hispanic descent. The board has faithfully served the Mayor, the City and her citizens since July 1998.*

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