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Awards Ceremony for Top High School Seniors and Eighth-Graders
The Best & Brightest Awards announced winners and scholarships

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The 11th Annual Best & Brightest Awards Ceremony took place on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall to award scholarships to well-deserved high school graduates for their leadership skills, academic accomplishments and community service involvement. The Keynote Speaker was Florida State University President John Thrasher.

Each winner received a \$1,500 scholarship and a trophy. Runners-up and honorable mentions received scholarships of \$750 and \$500, respectively, and trophies.

The awards have expanded since their first year in 2006. About 80 students were given scholarships during the program's inaugural year. This year 153 students were given awards in 15 categories, up from 143 last year.

Darryl Worrell, President and Chief Executive Officer of Envision Credit Union, said he is continually impressed by the remarkable record of academic achievement and commitment to service exhibited by candidates for awards. "The students recognized by this program truly are the community's Best & Brightest, and Envision is proud to help them on their way through scholarships and recognition." He announced that Envision will carry on the commitment to the program and students for another 5 years of scholarships.

Ron Sachs, President and CEO of Sachs Media Group and creator of the Best & Brightest Awards, said since 2006 the program has recognized 1497 students for their contributions to the Tallahassee community and given over \$500,000 in scholarships. "We are always inspired by these students' dedication to service and academics, and thanks to Envision's generosity, we can look forward to honoring more high achievers for several years to come," said Sachs.

During the event a special award was given - The Spirit of the Best & Brightest Award. Zenani Johnson, a Rickards High School student and the Honorable

Mention winner from the Public Speaking category was awarded The Spirit Award this year which included \$2,500 additional in scholarship funds.

“It is an honor to present Zenani Johnson with the Volunteer Florida Champion of Service Award,” said Chester W. Spellman, CEO of Volunteer Florida. “By spearheading projects such as Teens and The Law, Zenani has truly demonstrated a spirit of civic engagement and community involvement. This is the type of service leadership that we aim to cultivate and celebrate at Volunteer Florida.” The [Champion of Service Award](#) is the only statewide volunteer recognition award; it is awarded to volunteers and organizations who go above and beyond in service to their community. Visit www.thebestandbrightestawards.com for all the winners.

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