

FSU College of Medicine Fort Pierce campus presents scholarships

Beth Carr Strack, a member of the Treasure Coast community. This story is neither endorsed by nor affiliated with this site.

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FORT PIERCE — The Florida State University College of Medicine was created in 2000 to produce more primary care physicians for the state, especially physicians who will work with Florida's rapidly growing population of residents over age 65, its millions of patients in rural areas and other medically underserved patients. Because of its focused mission, FSU is producing more primary care physicians than any other medical school in Florida.

But students with the greatest commitment to medically serving others often have the fewest economic resources. Research also shows that students most likely to practice in medically underserved communities are those who come from such a background. This is where scholarships play a crucial role.

Brett Thomas, Class of 2014 student at the Tallahassee Regional Campus, said, "I was on the path to accrue more graduate debt compared to most of my colleagues. Support from many scholarship resources has provided a spirit of liberation to pursue a specialty irrespective of the salary."

For the first time, the Fort Pierce Regional Campus this year embarked on a campaign to provide scholarships to its students. At the recent Faculty Appreciation Celebration, FSU was able to provide four \$5,000 scholarships to very deserving fourth-year students. Two were sponsored by the general foundation fund of the Fort Pierce Campus, and they were awarded to Ahkeel Allen and Cynthia Laroche. Another, the Sai Ram Scholarship, was provided by an anonymous donor and was earned by Richard Ramonell. The fourth scholarship came from the Martin Health System Medical Executive Committee, in memory of Dr. Mario Sanguily. This scholarship was presented by William Carlson, M.D., FSU clerkship faculty for orthopedic surgery, to Claudia Zapata.

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