

A banner for the 2010 Governor's Hurricane Conference. The text "2010 Governor's Hurricane Conference" and "May 23-28, 2010" is in a bold, dark red font. Below the text is a blue circular graphic with a white arrow pointing up and the words "HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTE" in white. The background of the banner shows a stormy sea with lightning bolts striking the water under a dark, cloudy sky.

2010 Governor's Hurricane Conference
May 23-28, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor's Hurricane Conference Awards 23 Student Scholarships

~ Part of 24th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference Activities, May 24-28, 2010 ~

FT. LAUDERDALE - The 24th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference, being held this week at the Greater Ft. Lauderdale / Broward County Convention Center has announced an exciting new initiative that provides conference scholarships to college students.

"We welcome these 23 exceptional students from across Florida and as far as the State of Washington to the conference," said Helene Wetherington, Chair, Governor's Hurricane Conference Student Scholarship Program. "We received many outstanding applications and look forward to the program growing each year."

To gain eligibility, scholarship applicants must be enrolled in a public or private institution of higher education at the graduate or undergraduate level, and have taken or are taking emergency management related courses as part of their academic program. While a student's major or minor concentration of study need not be "emergency management" specifically, they are asked to demonstrate that their field of study has a direct impact to overall emergency preparedness, response, recovery and/or mitigation.

While at the conference this week, scholarship recipients are participating in courses and workshops, a roundtable discussion where they will hear from professionals in the field of emergency management, and have the opportunity to be mentored by a professional emergency manager. In addition, all recipients must commit to volunteer 12 hours as a room monitor for the conference or take on other duties as needed. A special reception will be held in the students' honor in Room 207 at the convention center on Tuesday afternoon, May 25th at 5:30 p.m. Media is invited.

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For more information, contact Ann Rowe-McMullen at (850) 933-0161, or the GHC Media Room at (954) 765-5456, or visit www.flghc.org.

“Resiliency through Preparedness – Protecting our Population”

The hurricanes of the past decade have continually reminded us of the devastating effects Florida’s communities experience during disasters. Resiliency is the ability of a community to overcome adversity and return to a pre-disaster state. To lead this effort, emergency management professionals and government leaders must be prepared for the numerous challenges posed by hurricanes on our communities. The Governor’s Hurricane Conference provides the training both leaders and emergency responders need to protect our population.

Experience has shown that the sooner communities deal with adversity and begin managing and mitigating these impacts and consequences, the more likely they are to be successful in returning life to the “new normal.”

The primary element for assuring resiliency in managing emergencies is preparedness. Resiliency through preparedness begins with preparing communities and their leaders by way of good planning, response management along clear lines of authority, realistic prevention and mitigation activities, effective public communication and well-managed recovery efforts.

In our 24th year, the Governor’s Hurricane Conference continues the commitment to prepare our state’s current and future public safety professionals to meet these challenges.

Training is the foundation of preparedness. Preparedness is the path to resiliency.

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