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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Florida Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealers Award \$160,000 in Scholarships to High School Graduates

160 scholarship winners from both Miami-Dade and Broward were honored recently at the 15th Annual SALUTE TO EDUCATION Scholarship Awards Ceremony

MIAMI, FL (June 7, 2009) -- For the 15th consecutive year, hundreds of outstanding college-bound high school seniors from South Florida saw their classroom and community efforts rewarded by the 19 South Florida Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealers of Miami-Dade and Broward counties and Ford Motor Company. The dealers and Ford are committed to continue supporting South Florida students with their post secondary education, even during these difficult economic times.

At the 15th Annual *Salute to Education (STE)* Scholarships Awards ceremony recently held at Florida International University's Graham Center, 160 high school seniors who recently graduated were honored and each received a \$1,000 scholarship - 80 in Miami Dade County and 80 in Broward County. A total of \$160,000 in scholarships was awarded.

Salute to Education has **granted a more than \$3.1 million** in scholarships to **more than 3,200 graduating seniors in South Florida** over the past 15 years.

Ken Czubay, vice president of U.S Sales and Marketing for Ford Motor Company and the newly elected president of Florida International University, Dr. Mark Rosenberg, were guest speakers at the awards ceremony where family, friends, teachers, and college advisors accompanied the winning graduating high school seniors. Both Mr. Czubay and Dr. Rosenberg recognized the successes and accomplishments of the Salute to Education scholarship winners and reminding the students that continuous education and community service is the key to enlightenment and advancement in the future.

Highlights of the awards ceremony also included an inspirational invocation by Bob Yglesias, President of Palmetto Ford and welcoming remarks by STE president John Maggio, General Manager of Pines Lincoln Mercury.

Salute to Education, **one of the largest private scholarship programs in South Florida**, is a non-profit organization made possible by the 19 Miami-Dade and Broward County Ford and Lincoln Mercury dealers, and the Ford Motor Company. A Scholarship Committee of dealer representatives and volunteers from the community selects the recipients.

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Photo Descriptions: