



## NEWS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

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### Pinellas County Student Receives Statewide Scholarship

Mary Kate Downing of Safety Harbor is the recipient of the 2015 Dorothy Ruggles Scholarship Award, one of three \$1,500 scholarships presented by the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) in 2015.

Nominated by Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark, Mary Kate is a junior at Florida State University, majoring in Media/Communications Studies. She was selected for her academic excellence as well as her community involvement.

Mary Kate has earned a place on the prestigious President's List in each of her semesters at FSU, and is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Program. She has also sought to be a leader among her peers as a member of the Residence Life Conduct Board and serving as a Residence Hall Ambassador.

A graduate of Palm Harbor University High School, Mary Kate is reprising her role this summer as an assistant with the Safety Harbor Public Library, where she also volunteered throughout her high school years.



"Mary Kate has shown the hard work and dedication required to be a worthy recipient of this award, given in memory of former Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Dorothy Walker Ruggles," Clark said. "We are honored for Mary Kate to represent Pinellas County – which has now produced an FSASE scholarship winner in five of the last 10 years."

The scholarship winner was announced at the FSASE Annual Conference in Orlando. On Wednesday, Supervisor Clark presented the commemorative certificate to Mary Kate at the Election Service Center in Largo.

Scholarship applicants are required to be enrolled as junior or senior in a Florida college or university, registered to vote, and majoring in political science, public administration, business administration, journalism or mass communications.

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