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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **UPS FUND PROVIDES OVER \$2 MILLION TO PRIVATE COLLEGES \$77,000 to 28 Florida Colleges and Universities**

DeLand, FL - (01/01/07) - The UPS Foundation of Atlanta, Georgia, and the Foundation for Independent Higher Education (FIHE) of Washington, D.C., recently jointly announced that more than \$2 million in grants is being awarded to benefit private colleges and universities across the nation. A grant of \$77,000 was awarded to the Florida Independent College Fund (FICF), which will distribute funds to its twenty-eight member institutions for UPS Scholarships.

Throughout the nation, 644 private institutions will receive a UPS Scholarship, which will be disbursed to students who are selected as UPS Scholars. Institutions select the students on the basis of financial need and academic achievement.

In addition to the \$1.7 million designated for scholarships, other funds will be used for innovative programs designed to improve educational services for students and to encourage collaboration among colleges. Programs will be selected through a competitive matching grants process called the UPS National Venture Fund. Since its inception in 1999, over \$4 million in Venture Fund grants have been awarded, and with local matching grants the total impact of the program exceeds \$12 million.

The UPS scholarships and grants are funded by the UPS Educational Endowment Fund, which is held and administered by FIHE and was originally funded through grants to FIHE from United Parcel Service (UPS). Since its inception, the UPS Educational Endowment Fund has generated over \$41 million in scholarship support. The current value of the endowment is approximately \$42 million.

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In announcing the grants, Evorn Cooper, President of The UPS Foundation, said “For nearly 50 years, The UPS Foundation has been honored to support education through partnerships with such organizations as FIHE and the Florida Independent College Fund. The availability of quality, affordable higher education is critical to establishing a talented, more diverse workforce.”

Foundation for Independent Higher Education is the national partner in a network of 34 state and regional funds, including the Florida Independent College Fund, which develop resources for private colleges and universities. Since its founding in 1958, FIHE and its partners have received more than \$1.5 billion in support for private colleges.

The FICF is a not-for-profit foundation that assists in program and resource development for the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida. Based in DeLand, the FICF is dedicated to providing financial assistance to students attending Florida’s 28 independent colleges and universities. The FICF scholarship programs are funded by grants from corporate partners who are equally committed to providing the best educational alternatives for today’s college students and tomorrow’s leaders.

Members of the Florida Independent College Fund eligible to receive UPS scholarships are Barry University, Beacon College, Bethune-Cookman College, Clearwater Christian College, Eckerd College, Edward Waters College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Flagler College, Florida College, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida Memorial University, Florida Southern College, International College, Jacksonville University, Lynn University, Nova Southeastern University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Ringling School of Art and Design, Rollins College, Saint Leo University, Southeastern University, St. Thomas University, Stetson University, The University of Tampa, University of Miami, Warner Southern College, and Webber International University.

For information about the Florida Independent College Fund,  
Please visit our website at [www.ficf.org](http://www.ficf.org).

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