For Immediate Release

September 21, 2007

Key West, FL- Florida Keys Educational Foundation President, Stephanie Monsalvatge, and Florida Keys Community College President, Dr. Jill Landesberg-Boyle, hosted a reception on September 18th to honor the benefactor of the First Generation in College Scholarship, Dr. William A. Seeker. Students and employees joined both Foundation and College Board members to celebrate in the newly refurbished Student Activities Center at the Key West campus. Recipients of the scholarship embraced the opportunity to personally thank Dr. Seeker for his generosity and to express how he has helped them achieve their academic goals.

Danielle Harrison, a scholarship recipient and full-time nursing student, drove two hours from Key Largo to attend the reception. She shared her moving story of financial struggle and the relief this scholarship has provided to her family. “I was notified that I lost my child care assistance just hours before I learned that I was awarded this scholarship... Every time I feel like I’m hitting rock bottom, I get a blessing. This has been a great blessing.”

Dr. Seeker holds a strong commitment to the education of first generation in college students since he was the first in his family to attain a degree of higher education. Although Dr. Seeker’s mother only finished 8th grade and his father never completed elementary school, they were both very supportive of his pursuit of scholarly knowledge. Dr. Seeker’s dedication and compassion for these students inspired Florida State Representative and Educational Appropriations Committee Chairman, Joe Pickens, to initiate the creation of a First Generation in College program from the Florida Department of Education. Dr. Seeker has contributed over $30,000 to
this initiative, in addition to establishing a $1 million endowment specifically for first generation in college students at FKCC.

FKEF Executive Director, Erika MacWilliams, enthusiastically reported that the number of scholarship recipients doubled from last semester. She said, “The Foundation was able to award twenty students with this wonderful opportunity and hopefully we will reach even more students in future semesters.”

The scholarship is flexible and covers tuition based on enrollment status; making it accessible to both part-time and full-time students. In order to qualify for this scholarship, students must be a Florida resident whose parents, or primary parent, did not complete a baccalaureate degree. For additional information or to obtain an application, please refer to FKCC’s Financial Aid Office or the College website: www.fkcc.edu. The deadline to submit an application for the spring semester is November 30, 2007.