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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### OSCEOLA HIGH SCHOOL TEEN ACHIEVES GOAL AND WINS SCHOLARSHIP

**June 2, 2008- Kissimmee, FL:** Clarisa Agosto, a 2008 Osceola High School Graduate,



received a \$2,000 scholarship to Valencia Community College on May 13th from the Education Foundation~Osceola County. One year ago, Clarissa was a high school senior unable to graduate due to inadequate FCAT scores. However, rather than accept a Certificate of Completion that would enable her to attend a community college, but would disqualify her for all financial aid opportunities, Clarissa chose to return to OHS and repeat her senior year. Through the guidance of OHS Career Specialist Jean Johnston, Clarissa, an ESOL (English to speakers of other languages) student, focused her studies heavily on math and reading and worked as Mrs. Johnston's

teaching assistant. After completing her coursework, Clarisa took the ACT college entrance exam, achieved concordant scores which are equivalent to passing the FCAT, received her high school diploma, and will attend Valencia Community College in the fall of 2008. "The scholarship from the Education Foundation was a validation of all of Clarisa's hard work and determination." said Mrs. Johnston.

The Education Foundation~Osceola County awards scholarships annually to high school seniors through the **Arts Alive!** event at the Osceola Center for the Arts, as well as the Education Foundation Scholarship Awards Ceremony, both held each spring. For more information on Foundation scholarships, please visit [www.scholarshipsosceola.org](http://www.scholarshipsosceola.org), or call 407-870-4855.

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The Education Foundation-Osceola County is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting public education, teachers and students. Led by a 35-member board of directors, the Foundation currently awards over one-hundred thirty \$2,000 scholarships each year to Osceola County graduates. Other important accomplishments include matching children with mentors through the Take Stock in Children and Bookmark Buddies programs, providing classroom supplies to needy students and eligible teachers at no cost through a teacher free store, as well as providing classroom project grants and hosting special appreciation events for Osceola County educators and students. Visit our Web site at [www.foundationosceola.org](http://www.foundationosceola.org) for more information about A Gift For Teaching of Osceola County or the Education Foundation~Osceola County.