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**LAKELAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
WINS TONY JANNUS ESSAY CONTEST**

TAMPA (October 12, 2006) - The Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society and the Florida Council on Economic Education (FCEE) have selected Lakeland Senior High School senior Michael Bastian as the winner of this year's Tony Jannus Essay Contest. Bastian will be recognized on October 12, 2006, during the 43rd annual Tony Jannus Award luncheon at the Tampa Airport Marriott in Tampa.

The Tony Jannus Essay Contest is open to all Florida students in grades 6-11. The essay contest guidelines specify the essay is to include the history of commercial aviation, with emphasis on a previous Tony Jannus Award winner.

Bastian, a self-proclaimed perfectionist with 4.0 GPA wrote an essay entitled, "America's Commercial Aviation," on the development and constant improvement of commercial aviation. For his outstanding essay, Bastian has been awarded a trip to Washington D.C., including three round-trip AirTran Airways tickets and a \$600 spending allowance. Bastian wishes to pursue a future career in aviation engineering.

Bastian's teacher, Elayne Fitzgerald, explains "He is a most deserving winner -- intelligent and a well mannered young man -- the kind of person that makes parents and teachers very proud."

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Elayne Fitzgerald, Lakeland Senior High School Business Education teacher, encouraged Bastian to enter the Tony Jannus Essay Contest. Fitzgerald became aware of The Tony Jannus Essay Contest through the Florida Council on Economic Education, through which she has entered contests in the past. She was awarded 1st place state winner for the Governor's Awards for Economics in 2000 and the runner-up in the same contest the following year. For encouraging students to participate, two round-trip tickets to any Southwest Airlines destination have been awarded to Fitzgerald.

In honor of Tony Jannus, the pilot recognized by the Smithsonian as the founder of the world's first scheduled airline, the Tampa and St. Petersburg Chambers of Commerce established The Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society in 1964. The airline - which began flights on New Year's Day, 1914 - had only one plane, a single-engine Benoist flying boat that flew round trips daily between Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida. The Society recognizes "outstanding contributors to the growth and improvement of the scheduled airline industry" and supports outstanding students and educators through the annual Tony Jannus Award, luncheon and banquet.

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