



For Immediate Release

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**Nationally Recognized Teen Trendsetters™ Reading Mentors Program Recruits
Teens for the 2006-2007 School Year**

TALLAHASSEE – The Teen Trendsetters Reading Mentors program is actively recruiting teens to serve as mentors across Florida this year. Selected teen leaders also will be invited to attend the fifth annual TTRM Leadership Summit, a two-day training event in Orlando in late July. Governor Jeb Bush will give the keynote address at the event. Recruitment for outstanding teen leaders will continue through June 15, 2006.

“It is an honor to be part of such a tremendous movement in Florida,” said Liza McFadden, president of nonprofit Volunteer Florida Foundation, which manages the program. “Increasingly our teen leaders are making a positive difference in the lives of children, and along the way they are gaining the national recognition they deserve as role models. Last year’s summit featured guest speaker First Lady Laura Bush, who lauded our teens on the example they are setting for our nation.”

“Moving Teens to Action” is the program’s theme this year. The Teen Trendsetters Reading Mentors (TTRM) program provides training and support to selected teen leaders who recruit classmates to help them mentor elementary students in reading. At the summit, lead Trendsetters will have the opportunity to gain leadership skills, learn about working with elementary students and network to help them as they recruit other teens from around the state to mentor.

“Teen Trendsetters Reading Mentors is yet another positive program working in collaboration with the state to ensure that students reading scores continue to improve,” said John Winn, Commissioner of the Florida Department of Education. “This is a great concept that enables teenagers to become involved in a positive way while helping to educate children.”

This outstanding teen leadership opportunity began in 2002, through the partnership of *Florida Trend’s NEXT* magazine for teens and Volunteer Florida Foundation. VFF manages the Florida Mentoring Partnership, of which the Teen Trendsetters program is a part. The program has gained national attention since its inception, earning the prestigious Harris Wofford Award for engaging youth in service, from Youth Service America in Washington, DC. Currently in more than half of the counties in Florida, Teen Trendsetters has set a goal of serving in 75 percent of Florida’s counties for the 2006-2007 school year.

For more information please contact your area Teen Trendsetters Reading Mentors Regional Representatives or Teecy Matthews, Director, Florida Mentoring Partnership at (352) 598-1885.

For a list of 2005-2006 Teen Trendsetters high schools, by county, go to <http://www.flamentoring.org>.

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