

# High achievers



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## Achievers with record of service recognized at annual ceremony

By **CAROLYN GUNISS**

Special to South Florida Times

Inspiration for greatness can come from anywhere, including a television program about a child with Tourette Syndrome. The disease, which causes the affected person to uncontrollably and repeatedly move or blurt out inappropriate speech, inspired Victoria Fleury to begin paving a career path to becoming a neurobiologist.

"After I saw that boy on the episode

of *7th Heaven*, I joined pre-med and worked hard," Fleury recalls. "It's hard to imagine myself not doing some good."

Working hard paid off. Fleury has been accepted to Florida State University this fall and the 18-year-old Palm Beach Gardens High School senior was tapped for the 2011 Jerome Edmund Gray Youth Achiever scholarship, an honor recognized at the 19th annual African American Achievement Awards, sponsored by JM Family Enterprises Inc.

It will be a free ride to college

through the scholarship funded by the Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship at FSU. Fleury is the first in her family to attend college.

The Achievers gala, attended by more than 1,000 supporters, took place at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale.

If Fleury is on her way to greatness, on April 6, when she was presented with her award, she heard from several adults who have already been down that road and were also being honored. The

"achievers" shared some common threads: strong family support; a thankfulness for God's kindness toward them; humility for the recognition; and an entrenched desire to help others.

Fleury heard from John W. Battle III, who left behind a promising and likely lucrative football career to teach performing arts at Hallandale Magnet High School. Later he started the John Battle Theatre Ensemble Inc., a haven for inner-

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