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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Florence Gardens, Beautification Commission Announce  
\$2,000 Scholarship Program for High School Students in Harrison County**

HARRISON COUNTY – Florence Gardens, the 420-acre residential master planned community in Gulfport, and the Harrison County Beautification Commission will offer two separate \$1,000 scholarships to the high school students that best demonstrate their commitment to litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling and overall community beautification.

“This is a real opportunity for the young adults in our community to explore issues in sustainability and leverage their creativity to lead in the area of environmental stewardship,” said Brandon Pike, President of Florence Gardens. “The projects they develop through this scholarship program will allow them to explore the confluence of art, education, and the environment and, we hope, have a lasting impact on how they approach these issues over the long-term.”

The Florence Gardens Scholarship for Community Beautification will target two focus areas, Found Art and Campus Improvement. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to the high school junior or senior in Harrison County that presents the best product in each category.

In the Found Art category students will create an art installation using recyclable materials. For Campus Improvement, students will design a program at their school that addresses at least one of the Harrison County Beautification Commission’s core issues: litter prevention, recycling, waste reduction and community beautification. In addition to the scholarship money, the winner of the Campus Improvement project will also receive a \$500 grant with which to implement the program at their school.

“Florence Gardens is leading the Coast not only in planned development but social responsibility as well,” said Jolie Spiers, Director, Harrison County Beautification Commission. “This scholarship demonstrates their holistic approach to community through support of art, education and environmental awareness.”

For scholarship guidelines, eligibility and more information, please visit [www.florencegardens.com](http://www.florencegardens.com) or [www.mscoastbeautiful.org](http://www.mscoastbeautiful.org).

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