



FIRST-EVER VIDEO AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT WALKER'S RISING STARS SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

May 25, 2010 -- Largo, FL – The grand finale of the 7th Annual Walker's Rising Stars Scholarship Competition kicks off at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 27 at Ruth Eckerd Hall. The program is produced by the Pinellas Education Foundation in conjunction with Pinellas County Schools.

New for the 2010 competition is the award of a \$5000 scholarship in the category of video arts. Teams or individuals were eligible to submit videos in the form of documentary, animation, public service, music video or comedy. The themes of the entries were required to reflect the traits of Pinellas County Schools' Commitment to Character, such as Honesty, Integrity, Patriotism, Kindness, Respect and Responsibility. Pinellas County Schools' WPDS-Channel 14 coordinated the application and judging process. Video submissions were judged on originality, technical skill and emergence of a personal vision.

Three top videos were selected from the fifteen entries that were submitted by individuals or teams of up to five members. The three final videos are:

Drink to "Live" – Documentary by
Kyle Bell Senior, Osceola High School
& Adam Gaetz, Junior, Dixie Hollins High School

Respect – Music Video by
Collin Bernard, Junior, East Lake High School
& Nile Madley, Junior, Countryside High School

Swimming – Documentary by
Cornelius O'Donoghue, Senior, Clearwater High School

The final competition program includes performances by finalists in the categories of vocal music, drama, and instrumental music, plus video profiles of the visual arts finalists. The performing finalists, like competitors in popular television programs that recognize emerging talent, began the "road to Walker's" at local auditions that began in January. They advanced to compete in rounds of auditions designed to whittle more than 200 applicants to a handful of finalists.

This annual talent showcase is widely regarded as the best entertainment value in the Tampa Bay area. The \$10 tickets (\$5 for seniors 65+) may be purchased directly at the Ruth Eckerd Hall ticket office, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater. Call 727-791-7400 or visit www.rutheckerdhall.com (service fees apply for phone and online orders).

Walker's Rising Stars was founded in 2003 by Bonati Institute neurosurgeon and Pinellas Education Foundation board member, Dr. Jeffrey Walker. Presenting sponsors are Kane's Furniture and Bright House Networks.