

**ANA MARIA PEREZ- PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION FOR HISPANIC AFFAIRS SCHOLARSHIP
WINNER MOTIVATED TO SUCCEED BY FATHER'S LOVE**

The Puerto Rican Association for Hispanic Affairs, Inc, an non-profit 501 ©3 cultural and educational organization is proud to announce the winner of the P.R.A.F.H.A./Henry Houston Roldan Memorial Scholarship at Indian River State College

April 12, 2006

**ANA MARIA PEREZ-PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION FOR HISPANIC AFFAIRS
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER MOTIVATED TO SUCCEED BY FATHER'S LOVE**

The Puerto Rican Association for Hispanic Affairs, Inc, an non-profit 501 ©3 Cultural and educational organization is proud to announce the winner of the P.R.A.F.H.A./Henry Houston Roldan Memorial Scholarship at Indian River Community College for the 2006-07 school year – Ana Maria Perez. This scholarship was awarded in the area of Fine Arts. Annie is a 20-year-old Colombian student from Indiantown finishing her first year at IRCC. Some of her many interesting classes she has excelled in are: Ballet, Music Theatre, College Chorus and Stage Movement. Her journey began in Bogota, Colombia where she was born. Because her parents worked hard to provide for their family, she grew up very close to her caring grandparents. As a young girl, she got involved in local singing groups in Calarca. She would practice every day after school, and thus her love for music and drama was ignited. In the search for a better life for his family, her father relocated to Florida. Soon after, her family all joined him here where the adjustment was very difficult. She remembers her first Christmas here just having a poinsettia plant as a Christmas tree and no presents due to limited funds. But they were all together and that's all that mattered. Soon after her parents separated and her dad moved to Seattle, Washington. She settled with mom and family in the Florida Keys where she again got involved with music and drama. She also attended the local church and soon became a youth leader and Sunday school teacher. Unfortunately, tragedy struck and her father was killed. Having her faith helped her cope with the loss of her wonderful father and best friend. She feels inspired by the love of her father in her pursuit to succeed in life. After she finishes her studies in Theatre, she hopes to attain her BA in Early Childhood Education and become a kindergarten teacher. She is currently a member of the Hispanic Honors Society. Though she has a full schedule of 10 classes this semester, she travels over 100 miles round trip every day so she can attend such an excellent college such as IRCC. This scholarship is named after Henry Roldan, beloved brother of Robert Roldan, President of P.R.A.F.H.A. It is always encouraging to see our Hispanic youth striving for a better life and we feel it is our mission to further encourage the. My brother was very dear to me and I'm sure he would feel happy to help out these students', says Mr. Roldan. Besides this scholarship, P.R.A.F.H.A. has sponsored four others at I.R.S.C. For more information regarding these scholarships, please contact PRAFHA at (772) 621-6841. Congratulations go out to Annie and her family. Her father's love and her dedication to succeed are an inspiration to us all!