



**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COLLEGE PRESENTS FULL SCHOLARSHIP AT 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CELEBRATION  
OF READING – A BUSH FAMILY LITERACY CAMPAIGN**



*Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Dr. Barbara Calabro, Dr. Stephen Calabro, Maria Segura and family, Mrs. Sharon Jones and Mr. Donald Jones.*

Fort Myers, Fla. (September 29, 2009) – This year, both the former Florida governor, Jeb Bush and his father, former President George H.W. Bush, were in town for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration of Reading at the Coconut Point Hyatt. The event was held to benefit the Family Literacy Initiative, an initiative which former governor Jeb Bush brought to Florida and has provided grants to more than 120 family literacy programs throughout the state since its inception.

One of the events most memorable moments included the presentation of a full Southwest Florida College scholarship in Elementary Education to Maria Segura.

Segura, 44, former farm worker and resident of Immokalee, spoke to the crowd about how she furthered her education through the Family Literacy Academy to ensure that her three younger children would not have to work in the fields.

Segura moved from the vegetables fields to the classroom, first as a student, then as a teacher after she completed her GED and went to work as a teaching assistant for pre-kindergarten students.

“Maria is a highly motive individual who has been an inspiration and role model for her family and others,” said Dr. Stephen Calabro, Executive Vice President for Southwest Florida College. “The Family Literacy Adult Student Scholarship allows Maria to realize her dream of becoming an elementary school teacher. The ripple effect Maria will have as a teacher of young children is immense and will go a long way in our collective efforts to eliminate illiteracy in Florida.”

The value of the scholarship presented to Segura is \$65,000, which includes full tuition for a four year bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, all books and fees.

Segura has stressed to her own children that education could give them a better future. Her oldest son attends Ohio State University and hopes to graduate with a degree in architecture.

“When my son crosses that graduation stage, instead of looking up at me with a smile and holding a bucket full of tomatoes, he will be smiling at me holding a diploma,” said Segura. “I couldn’t be prouder.”

*Southwest Florida College is an accredited, private, nonprofit institution of higher learning centrally located in Fort Myers, Tampa, Port Charlotte, and includes the Institute of Interior Design located within the International Design Center in Estero. The College has been providing post secondary education to Floridians since 1974 and offers programs in Allied Health, Business, Design, Education, Information Technology and Legal Studies. Its mission is to provide educational opportunities for individuals to acquire knowledge and skills that will help prepare them for rewarding careers in fields with high growth potential. For more information, call toll free 888-526-7973 or visit [www.swfc.edu](http://www.swfc.edu).*

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