JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA
Office of the Governor
THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

February 11, 2003

Dear Friend:

This summer, 200 high school students will be selected to serve as the second group of Teen Trendsetter™ Reading Mentors. The Governor's Mentoring Initiative has partnered with *Florida Trend's NEXT* magazine to find students who understand the value of devoting time to helping others, who appreciate the importance of reading and who have what it takes to get other students involved.

The goal of the Teen Trendsetter Reading Mentors program is to encourage high school students to become involved in their local communities by becoming reading mentors and tutors to elementary school students. The program will also these provide elementary students with positive role models who will promote the importance of reading.

The 200 selected Teen Trendsetters will visit Universal Orlando™ in July for special training based on the latest research in reading conducted by the Florida Department of Education. They will also receive training provided by our office on how to serve as a leader and motivator for mentoring in their schools. This training will help them with establishing a Teen Trendsetter club at their school. Needless to say, these students will also have the opportunity for shared "fun time" at Universal Orlando. Additionally, this year's program sponsors include, Universal Orlando, AAA Autoclub South, Verizon, the Florida Department of Education and Comcast Cable.

Upon completion of this training, the reading mentors will return to their home school to recruit other students for the program and to establish a mentor program at an elementary school in your area. Qualified applicants not selected as Teen Trendsetter Reading Mentors may be invited to participate in the program in other ways throughout the school year.

In 1999, when the Governor's Mentoring Initiative first began, Governor Jeb Bush announced his goal to recruit 200,000 Floridians to become mentors to Florida's students. I am pleased to report that the results of our last Prevalence in Mentoring Survey state that over 135,000 students are currently being mentored in either one on one or group mentor settings statewide. I urge you to encourage your students to go to www.FloridaNEXT.com to apply to become Teen Trendsetter Reading Mentors. Enclosed you will find detailed information on this exciting new program, along with the necessary contact information. Your teachers may also download a printed version of the application for students who do not have internet access by going to www.FloridaNEXT.com/TeachersLounge or www.flamentoring.org. All applications are due no later than Wednesday, April 30, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. For any further questions, you may contact Cristal Cole in my office at (850) 410-0696 or Mrs. Jamie Cataldo, *Florida Trend's NEXT* editor, at (727) 892-2622.

Sincerely,

Liza McFadden, Executive Director
Governor's Mentoring/Family Literacy Initiative

Enclosure