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HCC in the News: SGA Student of the Month April

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http://thefcsaa.com/default-content/sgasotmapril17 [1]

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Congratulations to Melinda Weeratunga, Hillsborough Community College, named the Student Government Division Student of the Month for April. She was nominated by her advisor Dr. Earl Paul, who shared this about her:

"Melinda is the type of student who appears and makes an immediate impact on an organization. She is hard working, involves herself in a number of clubs including SGA, has a positive attitude no matter the circumstances, encourages other students, goes above and beyond her duties -- including sending email updates, alerts and reminders to students herself -- and always appears at SGA and club sponsored events scurrying around making sure that "things" are being taken care of. I am always amazed that students like Melinda are able to do all that they do and still maintain a high GPA. If we could replicate the personality and attitude of someone like her, all of us in student services would be happier and our jobs much easier.

Melinda is presently the secretary of the Brandon Campus SGA, as well as memberships in



the following clubs: Multicultural Club, American Medical Student Association, Phi Theta Kappa and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. I don't know how she does it, but I know that she is active in these clubs, not just in them by name only. She is at their events, is part of their conferences and helps their advisors with details that facilitate the running of the club. Melinda is a very active "behind the scenes" type of person but she accomplishes much. She is somewhat shy about public speaking, but at my request (and to help her with her fear), I have asked her to speak at a couple of events this year, and she did a fine job. Also, one of the tenets I teach in my leadership seminar is "lead by example." Melinda certainly fulfills this requirement. She is the first at an event and the last to leave, making sure that everything is being addressed and completed. I believe as she matures and gains more confidence that she will prove to be an effective leader in any field that she pursues."

Congratulations to this outstanding student, and our thanks to Dr. Paul for taking the time to nominate her.

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