Tallahassee Area Association of Environmental Professionals
First Inaugural Writing Competition

Each year, the Tallahassee Area Association of Environmental Professionals ("TAAEP") awards a scholarship to a deserving candidate who is pursuing a degree in engineering, geology, environmental science, biology or a related field to the various practice areas that make up our membership.

For the 2015-16 calendar year, the TAAEP can award up to $500.00.

• RULES: The submission must respond substantively to one of the following questions of critical need –

1) Amendment 1 to the Florida Constitution, passed November 4, 2014 established the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative. This measure is designed to dedicate 33 percent of the net revenue from the existing document excise tax to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. You have just been appointed as the Deputy Secretary of State Lands for the Department of Environmental Protection and the Secretary has asked you to brief him on the best way to use these trust fund dollars. Please respond.

2) Unmanned aerial vehicles or drones (UAVs) have a multitude of environmental uses from wetland to species surveys. Despite the great potential, there is great concern about their usage in advance of appropriately developed regulations. You have just been appointed as Special Advisor to the Secretary of the USEPA and the Administrator of the FAA to give an opinion on whether UAVs should be used for environmental surveys or other environmental purposes, and, if so, what new rules or laws must be passed to make their usage safe. Please respond.

Papers should be emailed to the TAAEP Scholarship Chair at (egates@genesisgroup.com) no later than midnight on October 5, 2015. Papers failing to comply with the deadline will not be considered except upon a majority vote of the judging committee under extraordinary circumstances. Any submission must
be the work of a single author, who is a student at Florida State University and a member of the FSU Florida Association of Environmental Professionals Student Chapter, which work has not been published previously, is not pending publication and does not infringe upon any statutory or common law copyright or other right and does not contain obscene, defamatory, or otherwise unlawful material or violate any right of privilege or privacy. Papers must be between 5 and 10 pages, double-spaced in conventional typeface, 12-point font size, and 1 inch margins and may be edited for possible publication in Florida Association of Environmental Professional Beacon publication. Each page must have a header including the title of the paper and a page number. For anonymous evaluation of the entries, no privacy information that could identify the author should appear anywhere in the body of the paper, including in the header. Each entry must have a separate cover sheet (not included in the page limit) that includes the following contact information: (1) name; (2) address; (3) phone number; (4) email address; (5) school of study and (6) paper title. Citations may be footnotes or endnotes and shall be in accordance with the MLA Style Manual.

Judging is by members of the TAAEP and is based on the following: 1) creativity and originality of thought; 2) breadth and depth of content, analysis, and sources; 3) objectivity (all sides of problem presented); 4) effectiveness of communication (including grammar, punctuation, and style); 5) practicality of the paper and its proposed solutions for addressing current problems; and 6) compliance with the competition rules.

Authors may not contact members of the judging committee.