

## **CEI Hosts Young Entrepreneurs from Around the State, Nation**

Ten Grand Prize winners in the 2008 Lorax Challenge visited UF August 1 - 3 to participate in a Sustainability Boot Camp offered through UF's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (CEI). Five winning teams received an all-expense paid trip to UF based on the university's reputation for campus sustainability efforts, which have earned state and national accolades. With goals for both Zero Waste by 2015 and Carbon Neutrality by 2025, UF endeavors to integrate principles of sustainability throughout its operations, education, research, and outreach. Based on the well-known Dr. Seuss character the Lorax, the "Youth Venture Lorax Challenge" supported teams of young people who addressed a wide range of topics, from developing a sustainable water supply to installing energy efficient software on school computers.

The Lorax Challenge winners, selected from more than 500 entries, joined high school students attending CEI's Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership & Change (YELC) summer program. Offered for just the second time this summer, the YELC's 23 students took college-level classes, performed community service, went on field trips, attended activities, events, and workshops—all while living, eating, and playing on the beautiful UF campus. The program was developed specifically for high schoolers to learn about entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, and leadership—and learn they did!

Sustainability Boot Camp events included a tour of UF's Water Reclamation Facility, presentations by the Coordinator of Sustainability for GatorDining and Gators for a Sustainable Campus, and watching films such as *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Who Killed the Electric Car* and *Gimme Green*, directed by UF grad Eric Flagg. Lorax winners also had the opportunity to join YELC students in activities that had come to typify their days over the past six weeks, such as a service project at the local Poe Springs Celebration and participating in college-level classes: *Social Problems & Solutions*, *Exploring Entrepreneurship*, and a videoconference with SwaziAid, an NGO started in 2006 by three UF students in Prof. Kristin Joos' class, *Honors Social Entrepreneurship*. Students also had the chance to meet with Cal Fore, a UF Freshman who participated in YELC last summer and started his own nonprofit.

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The Warrington College of Business Administration is one of the world's top-rated public business programs, recognized for excellence by *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *The Economist*, and *Fortune*. As part of a Research 1 institution, Warrington is dedicated to a substantial research agenda, in addition to its teaching mission, from the undergraduate to the doctoral level. Warrington educates future business leaders using teamwork that provides opportunities for development of leadership, interpersonal and

total management skills; promoting mastery of business functional areas; and fostering the habits and attitudes that constitute a solid research and work ethic.