

## **Poet Laureate James E. Tokley to Speak at Lee Gifted Graduation Ceremony**

**Tampa, FL** – James E. Tokley, the first official Poet Laureate for the City of Tampa, will give the commencement address for Lee Academy for Gifted Education on Friday, June 5.

Ceremony will be 10am, at Friday Morning Musicale, Hyde Park.

In addition to his notable works in poetry, Mr. Tokley is an actor and musician, receiving critical acclaim for his performance of Aaron Copeland's "Lincoln Portrait" with the Florida Orchestra and his epic "Genesis," which was adapted for cinema. His poem "Song of the Hillsborough" was chosen to represent Hillsborough County, Florida, during its year-long millennium celebration activities and was a part of the White House Millennium exhibit and Tokley delivered the inaugural poem "A Meeting of the People" for the swearing in ceremony of newly-elected Florida Governor Charlie Crist in Tallahassee. Tokley's poem "Leviathan" can be currently seen on the side of the Tampa towers building overlooking Gas Light Park in downtown Tampa. At 65 feet tall and 45 feet across, it is the largest poem ever produced and posted in the history of the world.

"Mr. Tokley graciously accepted our invitation to speak and we are extremely pleased that he will share his inspirational words at our graduation ceremony. We made every effort to find someone who shared our graduate's passion for poetry. Mr. Tokley was a perfect candidate and we cannot wait to hear his message," said Lee Gifted Director, Linda Lacey.

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### **About Lee Academy for Gifted Education**

Founded in 1983, Lee Academy for Gifted Education is the only private school in Hillsborough County specifically designed the needs of the intellectually gifted learner, early childhood through high school. For more information, to make an appointment for an enrollment consultation, or to simply learn if your child has characteristics of giftedness, please visit [www.leegifted.com](http://www.leegifted.com) or call 813.931.3316.