

HR 9065

2013

House Resolution

A resolution designating April 4, 2013, as "Gator Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida, one of the nation's most academically rigorous and comprehensive institutions of higher learning, is one of only six universities in the nation with colleges of law, medicine, engineering, veterinary medicine, and agriculture on one central campus, and

WHEREAS, in January, the university launched Innovation Academy, one of the nation's most forward-looking undergraduate programs that gives students a small-college experience focused on innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, ethics, and leadership on a unique spring-summer calendar, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has a four-year graduation rate of 65 percent, a six-year graduation rate of 84 percent, and a freshman retention rate of 96 percent, all the highest of any university in the State of Florida, and nearly two-thirds of University of Florida students graduate with no student loan debt, compared with two-thirds of college students nationally who graduate with student loan debt, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a vital statewide economic engine that generates thousands of statewide jobs, and

WHEREAS, MindTree, a global information technology and product engineering company, cited the University of Florida as a key factor in its decision in 2012 to select Gainesville as the site of its United States expansion, bringing 400 new jobs to the state over the next five years, and

HR 9065

2013

29 WHEREAS, the University of Florida became the first
30 university in the state to offer massive open online courses and
31 is the state's only member of Coursera, the industry leader in
32 offering such courses, and

33 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is now the home of the
34 Collegiate Veterans Success Center, continuing its legacy of
35 supporting veterans, which dates back to the thousands who
36 attended the university on the GI Bill following World War II,
37 and

38 WHEREAS, the university attracts the best students in the
39 state, the country, and the world, with an average 2011 freshman
40 grade point average of 4.3 and an average SAT score of 1958, the
41 highest of any state university in Florida, and

42 WHEREAS, the university is a leading research institution
43 that jumped from 14th to 12th in a national ranking of research
44 and development spending at the top 30 public universities and
45 exceeded the national average, increasing its research
46 expenditures by 8.5 percent from 2010 to 2011, and

47 WHEREAS, Exxon-Mobil hires more engineering graduates from
48 the University of Florida than it does from any other school in
49 the country, and the university is the third most popular
50 supplier of graduates at Intel and Lockheed-Martin, and

51 WHEREAS, in October 2012, the University of Florida marked
52 the conclusion of its Florida Tomorrow campaign, which exceeded
53 its goal in gifts, pledges, and commitments and is now one of
54 the most successful campaigns ever completed by a public
55 university, and

HR 9065

2013

56 WHEREAS, the University of Florida ranks 10th nationally in
57 the number of United States patents issued and 8th in the number
58 of startup companies created, and

59 WHEREAS, the University of Florida also excels in its
60 student athletic program, which has been a Top-Ten program
61 nationally for the past 29 years and whose athletic victories
62 include 29 national team championships, 205 SEC titles, and more
63 than 249 individual national titles, NOW, THEREFORE,

64

65 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
66 Florida:

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68 That April 4, 2013, is designated as "Gator Day" in the
69 State of Florida.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
71 presented to Dr. J. Bernard Machen, president of the University
72 of Florida, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
73 herein.