

By Senator Bradley

5-02612-18

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 25, 2018, as "St. Johns River State College Day" and commemorating the college's 60th anniversary.

WHEREAS, St. Johns River State College, formerly known as St. Johns River Junior College and St. Johns River Community College, was founded in 1958 to serve the counties of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns River State College's first campus was located in Palatka and officially opened for organizational purposes on February 25, 1958, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns River State College served 191 students in its first semester and has evolved into a multi-campus institution that currently serves approximately 11,000 students and offers Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Science, Associate in Arts, and Associate in Science degrees, as well as a variety of certificate and workforce training programs, and

WHEREAS, upon its merger with Collier-Blocker Junior College in 1964, St. Johns River State College became a fully integrated public junior college serving all students in Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties, and

WHEREAS, in 1976, the Florida School of the Arts, the first state-supported professional arts school, began full operation as part of St. Johns River State College, with a charter class of 51 students, and

WHEREAS, in 1977, St. Johns River State College opened its first branch campus in Orange Park and, in 1986, opened its second branch campus in St. Augustine, and

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30 WHEREAS, in 1997, Senate Bill 1688 authorized all community  
31 colleges to offer workforce development programs, opening the  
32 door for St. Johns River State College to become a fully  
33 comprehensive community college, and

34 WHEREAS, in 2004, the Thrasher-Horne Center opened on the  
35 Orange Park campus to host art exhibits, theatrical  
36 performances, community events, and business conferences, and

37 WHEREAS, in 2010, St. Johns River State College was granted  
38 approval to offer its first baccalaureate degrees by the State  
39 Board of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and  
40 Schools Commission on Colleges, and

41 WHEREAS, with this approval, the college was elevated from  
42 a Level I to a Level II accredited institution and changed its  
43 name to St. Johns River State College to better reflect this  
44 status, and

45 WHEREAS, St. Johns River State College continues its  
46 comprehensive and educational role by expanding its offerings in  
47 academic, workforce development, and adult education areas, as  
48 well as community education to better serve area residents, NOW,  
49 THEREFORE,

50  
51 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

52  
53 That February 25, 2018, is recognized as "St. Johns River  
54 State College Day," and the college is celebrated for its 60th  
55 anniversary as an outstanding institution of higher education  
56 focused on student success.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
58 presented to Joe H. Pickens, J.D., president of St. Johns River

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59 State College, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed  
60 herein.