

By Senator Dockery

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the University of
Florida.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a member of the
prestigious American Association of Universities, is
considered by many to be the best public university in the
state, and is one of the top 20 public universities in the
nation, as measured by U.S. News & World Report, and

WHEREAS, the university is the state's leading research
and education institution, drawing \$493 million in research
grants during the last fiscal year and offering more than 100
bachelor's degree programs and more than 200 graduate and
professional degree programs, and

WHEREAS, these programs make the university, together
with its Health Science Center and Institute of Food and
Agricultural Sciences, one of the most comprehensive in the
nation, and

WHEREAS, the university is a major economic engine,
having an economic ripple effect worth more than \$4 billion,
many times the state's investment, and

WHEREAS, the university is a major developer of new
technologies, disclosing 272 inventions, licensing 66
technologies, and earning \$40 million in licensing revenue in
2005 alone, and

WHEREAS, perhaps the best-known invention to come out
of the university is Gatorade, the sports health drink that
has helped millions of athletes maintain peak performance and
resulted in more than \$120 million in royalties to the
university, and

1 WHEREAS, Gatorade was created by UF physician-scientist
2 Dr. Robert Cade, a nephrologist who has spent more 40 than
3 years at the university and is renowned for his willingness to
4 share both his knowledge and his good fortune, and

5 WHEREAS, the university serves as a vital engine for
6 the state's technology economy, with companies based on
7 technologies developed by the university contributing nearly
8 \$500 million to Florida's economy annually, and

9 WHEREAS, the university is home to some of the nation's
10 top faculty members, including more than two dozen who have
11 been selected to the National Academies, the Institute of
12 Medicine, or a counterpart in a foreign nation, and the
13 university has more than 50 eminent-scholar chairs, and

14 WHEREAS, the university, one of the five largest in the
15 country, attracts some of the best students in the nation,
16 ranking 1st among universities worldwide in the numbers of
17 International Baccalaureate students who attend its campus,
18 and producing the second-highest number of Ph.D.s in the
19 nation, and

20 WHEREAS, the university's students are steadily
21 becoming more diverse, with 10 percent of its freshman class
22 African-Americans and 14 percent Hispanic, and the university
23 seeks to enhance these percentages through the launch of the
24 Florida First Time in College Scholarship program, and

25 WHEREAS, UF athletes are among the most talented in the
26 nation, and UF most recently finished sixth in national
27 all-sports rankings, the 22nd straight year that Gator
28 athletics have placed in the top 10, and

29 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the Foundation
30 for The Gator Nation, the source for hundreds of thousands of
31 UF graduates worldwide, NOW, THEREFORE,

1 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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3 That the Florida Senate celebrates April 5, 2006, as
4 "The University of Florida Day" in Tallahassee, in recognition
5 of the University of Florida's contributions to the state, the
6 nation, and the world.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
8 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Dr. J.
9 Bernard Machen, President of the University of Florida, as a
10 token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.

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