

By Senator Oelrich

14-03204-12

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 16, 2012, as
"University of Florida Day" at the Capitol.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida, one of the nation's most academically rigorous and comprehensive institutions of higher learning, is and has been since 1985 the state's only university honored by membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a land-grant university and, in 2012, will help lead the national celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1862, which established the land-grant university system, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is one of only 17 universities in the nation classified as land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant institutions, and

WHEREAS, the university attracts the best students in the state, the nation, and the world, with an average incoming freshman grade point average of 4.23 and an average SAT score of 1920, the highest of any state university in Florida, and ranks among the top 10 universities in the nation where corporations prefer to recruit new employees, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is home to the finest faculty and staff, including 52 Eminent Scholar chairs and 35 faculty elections to the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was awarded \$619 million in research and training grants in the 2011-2012 academic year, more than any other state university, and

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30 WHEREAS, the University of Florida's overall
31 accomplishments and quality of education earned it a ranking in
32 Kiplinger Magazine for the 7th consecutive year as one of the
33 best values for a university education, and

34 WHEREAS, the University of Florida, a vital economic engine
35 with an annual statewide economic impact that exceeds \$8.76
36 billion, an amount as large as Florida's spectator sports
37 industry, generates more than 106,000 jobs statewide, resulting
38 in a return of \$15 for every state dollar invested in the
39 university, and

40 WHEREAS, a 2011 study rated the University of Florida as
41 the most efficient public research university in the country in
42 terms of tuition and graduation rates, and its 4-year graduation
43 rate of 65 percent is the highest of any state university, and

44 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a leading institution
45 in the STEM fields, with its Department of Chemistry ranked
46 first in the number of STEM graduates at the graduate and
47 undergraduate levels statewide, and has the highest percentage
48 among all state universities of degrees awarded in STEM fields,
49 and

50 WHEREAS, the University of Florida also excels in its
51 student-athletic program, which has been a top 10 program
52 nationally for the past 28 years and whose athletic victories
53 include 26 national team championships, 201 SEC titles, and more
54 than 230 individual national titles, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

57
58 That February 16, 2012, is recognized as "University of

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59 Florida Day" at the Capitol.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
61 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to University of
62 Florida President J. Bernard Machen as a tangible token of the
63 sentiments of the Florida Senate.