

By Senator Bean

4-01732B-13

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 11, 2013, as "Higher Education Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Florida's public higher education institutions educate more than 310,000 students annually in diverse fields, from archaeology to zoology, and prepare them for careers of accomplishment and service, and

WHEREAS, the State University System of Florida is one of the largest public university systems in the United States, consisting of 12 institutions and 30 branch campuses across the state, and

WHEREAS, the Florida College System consists of 28 state and community colleges and educates more than 900,000 students annually, including 65 percent of high school graduates pursuing postsecondary education and 82 percent of freshman and sophomore minority students, and

WHEREAS, it is projected that graduates of the State University System and the Florida College System will continue, as they have in the past, to add value to Florida's economy by virtue of their lifetime earnings, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the present value of lifetime earnings attributed to State University System graduates employed in Florida will total \$30.9 billion over a 30-year work life, or approximately \$1 billion annually in 2010 dollars, and

WHEREAS, Florida College System institutions are nationally recognized for excellence, with the Aspen Institute selecting Valencia College as the winner of the 2011 Aspen Prize for best community college in the nation, with outstanding academic and

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30 workforce outcomes, and

31 WHEREAS, Santa Fe College, Miami Dade College, and Broward  
32 College have all been recent top-10 finalists for the Aspen  
33 Prize, and

34 WHEREAS, this state's public higher education institutions  
35 are known nationwide for offering students tremendous value for  
36 their education dollars, and

37 WHEREAS, enrollment in the State University System totaled  
38 312,259 students during the 2009 fall semester, with more than  
39 90 percent of those students Florida residents and nearly 80  
40 percent of them enrolled in undergraduate programs, and

41 WHEREAS, the State University System has an annual economic  
42 impact of nearly \$80 billion and employs more than 58,000  
43 faculty and staff, creating more than 771,000 Florida-based  
44 jobs, or nearly 8 percent of the state's total workforce, and

45 WHEREAS, a compelling 7 percent of this state's gross  
46 domestic product is directly linked to the State University  
47 System, which is significant given Florida's ranking among the  
48 world's top economies, and

49 WHEREAS, this state's public higher education institutions  
50 are leaders in their regions, providing academic, cultural, and  
51 economic contributions that enhance quality of life and build  
52 strong communities, NOW, THEREFORE,

53  
54 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

55  
56 That we recognize April 11, 2013, as "Higher Education Day"  
57 in Florida.