

By Senator Gardiner

13-02188-13

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution extending congratulations to the faculty,
3 administration, staff, students, and alumni of the
4 University of Central Florida on the occasion of the
5 university's 50th anniversary and recognizing March
6 20, 2013, as "UCF Day" in Florida.

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8 WHEREAS, the University of Central Florida (UCF) is the
9 nation's second-largest university, with an enrollment of nearly
10 60,000 students and more than 210,000 alumni, the majority of
11 whom reside in this state, and

12 WHEREAS, UCF is a major driver of economic development and
13 the direct, indirect, and induced impact of UCF operations,
14 student spending, and the Central Florida Research Park resulted
15 in an economic output of more than \$4.3 billion for the 2011
16 fiscal year, and

17 WHEREAS, the award-winning DirectConnect to UCF program is
18 a national model for providing Floridians the opportunity to
19 affordably attain higher education through partnerships with
20 local state colleges, and

21 WHEREAS, UCF's College of Medicine helped attract a cluster
22 of life sciences centers and research institutions to the new
23 Medical City in Lake Nona, which is projected to bring more than
24 30,000 jobs to the Orlando community and to have more than \$7.6
25 billion in annual economic impact beginning in 2017, and

26 WHEREAS, UCF has more than doubled the awarding of critical
27 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees
28 in the past decade, and

29 WHEREAS, UCF is regularly ranked as one of the nation's

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30 "best value" universities for its affordability, value, and
31 quality by organizations such as the *Princeton Review* and
32 *Kiplinger*, and

33 WHEREAS, UCF strives to reflect the growing diversity of
34 its community, with minorities representing 40 percent of the
35 student body, and

36 WHEREAS, UCF is a model of efficiency, spending nearly 40
37 percent less on administrative costs than the state university
38 system average, and

39 WHEREAS, the modeling, simulation, and training industry is
40 anchored in Central Florida, bringing \$3 billion to the region
41 thanks to partnerships between UCF, the United States Armed
42 Forces, and innovative high-tech companies, and

43 WHEREAS, UCF fosters the arts in the community through its
44 partnerships in theatre, digital film, music, and public
45 television and radio broadcasting, and

46 WHEREAS, UCF serves as a valued contributor to the Central
47 Florida region through staff and student volunteers who generate
48 more than 200,000 service hours annually to charities in the
49 community and more than \$200,000 through fundraising efforts,
50 and

51 WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of
52 UCF, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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56 That we congratulate the faculty, administration, staff,
57 students, and alumni of the University of Central Florida on the
58 occasion of the university's 50th anniversary and recognize

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59 March 20, 2013, as "UCF Day" in Florida.