

By Senator Stargel

15-01834-14

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing Polk State College on the
3 occasion of its 50th anniversary.

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5 WHEREAS, Polk State College, formerly known as Polk Junior
6 College and Polk Community College, was founded in 1964 as the
7 first public higher education institution in Polk County and is
8 currently one of 28 public colleges in the Florida College
9 System, and

10 WHEREAS, Polk State College's first campus was located on a
11 former World War II Air Force base in Bartow and, in 1966,
12 ground was broken for its first permanent campus in Winter
13 Haven, and

14 WHEREAS, in 1988, Polk State College opened its Lakeland
15 campus off U.S. Highway 98 South, between Lakeland and Bartow,
16 and, in the years that followed, added the Airside Center in
17 South Lakeland, the J.D. Alexander Center in downtown Lake
18 Wales, and the Polk State Lake Wales Arts Center off Highway 60
19 in Lake Wales, and

20 WHEREAS, Polk State College also operates three charter
21 high schools that serve the students of Polk County, and

22 WHEREAS, enrollment at Polk State College has increased
23 from just under 1,200 students in 1964 to approximately 25,000
24 students today, and

25 WHEREAS, in 2009, Polk State College offered its first
26 bachelor's degree program and now offers a number of 4-year
27 degrees, including a bachelor of applied science degree in
28 supervision and management and bachelor of science degrees in
29 nursing and criminal justice, in addition to associate in arts

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30 and associate in science degrees and a variety of certificate
31 and workforce training programs, and

32 WHEREAS, in 2011, Polk State College rebranded itself,
33 adopting the eagle as its mascot and changing the school's
34 colors to red and black, and

35 WHEREAS, in January 2014, the Polk State Clear Springs
36 Advanced Technology Center opened off Highway 60 East in Bartow,
37 a 450,000 square foot facility that houses high-tech degree
38 programs and the Polk State Corporate College, which provides
39 workforce training throughout the region, and

40 WHEREAS, Polk State College promotes excellence and student
41 success through innovation, value, and engagement while
42 manifesting its core values of service, integrity, knowledge,
43 diversity, and leadership, NOW, THEREFORE,

44

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

46

47 That we recognize Polk State College on the occasion of its
48 50th anniversary.