

By Senator Bradley

7-03297-14

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 2, 2014, as "University of Florida Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida tradition of enrolling some of the most academically talented students in the nation continued during the 2013-2014 academic year, with incoming freshmen having a grade point average of 4.4 and an average SAT score of 1,960, and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the University of Florida launched UF Online, the first fully online 4-year bachelor's degree program at a public university in Florida and one of the first such programs nationwide to be offered at a leading national research university, and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the University of Florida dedicated more than \$13 million in state preeminence funding to hiring new faculty, whose work will further 16 university research proposals in fields including computing, biology, and business, and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the University of Florida's Innovation Square continued to draw outside technology companies, including Boston-area mobile application developer Mobiquity and CurtCo Robb Media, the publisher of the Robb Report, to Gainesville, where they established offices and created jobs, and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the University of Florida ranked fourth nationally among universities in launching startup companies that use the school's own technologies, a testament to the university's world-renowned faculty, and

WHEREAS, the business incubator Florida Innovation Hub at

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30 the University of Florida contributed to the creation of 250  
31 jobs in its first 20 months of operation and already has more  
32 than two dozen tenants, and

33 WHEREAS, in 2013, the University of Florida surged to  
34 number 14 among the nation's best public universities as ranked  
35 by U.S. News & World Report, and

36 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Wall Street Journal's Smartmoney  
37 magazine reported that the University of Florida offers students  
38 and their families the second-highest return on investment of  
39 any university in the nation, and

40 WHEREAS, in 2013, the University of Florida continued to  
41 grow and expand its campus, including the completion of the  
42 Clinical and Translational Research Building, the launch of a  
43 major renovation and expansion of the J. Wayne Reitz Union, and  
44 the groundbreaking for both Heavener Hall and the Harrell  
45 Medical Education Building, and

46 WHEREAS, in 2013, the University of Florida significantly  
47 expanded its scientific research computing capabilities with the  
48 completion of HiPerGator, the state's fastest supercomputer that  
49 is among the top 200 supercomputers in the world, and

50 WHEREAS, the University of Florida unified the six colleges  
51 of the UF Health Science Center and Shands Hospital by bringing  
52 them together under one shared brand, UF Health, and

53 WHEREAS, the University of Florida also excels in its  
54 student athletic program, the only program in the nation to rank  
55 in the top ten nationally for the past 30 years and whose  
56 athletic victories include 31 national team championships, 213  
57 Southeastern Conference titles, and more than 259 individual  
58 national titles, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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62 That April 2, 2014, is recognized as "University of Florida  
63 Day" in Florida.

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65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
66 presented to J. Bernard Machen, D.D.S., Ph.D., President of the  
67 University of Florida, as a tangible token of the sentiments  
expressed herein.