

By Senator Bradley

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing March 24, 2015, as "University of Florida Day" in Tallahassee in honor of the University of Florida's significant contributions to its state, to its nation, and throughout the world.

WHEREAS, The Business Journals ranked the University of Florida seventh on the publishing company's 2015 list of the best public colleges in America, and

WHEREAS, using funding designated by the Legislature for preeminent universities, the University of Florida has hired nearly 75 top faculty from around the world to focus work in more than two dozen areas addressing complex social issues, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues to enroll academically talented students, with the fall 2015 admitted students having an average grade point average of 4.3 and SAT score of 1918, and

WHEREAS, as part of its innovative efforts to increase access, the University of Florida launched Pathway to Campus Enrollment in February 2015, a program offering prospective freshmen admission to UF Online with a guarantee of acceptance later as third-year residential students, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida aids low-income students who are the first in their families to attend college through its Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program, which, since it was founded in 2006, has supported more than 3,200 such students, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida in August reported receiving a record \$702 million in contracts and grants in the

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30 2013-2014 fiscal year, and

31 WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues to develop the
32 public-private partnership known as Innovation Square, with
33 Signet Enterprises starting construction of a first-of-its-kind
34 residence hall and entrepreneurial living community where
35 students will be able to launch their own businesses, and

36 WHEREAS, the University of Florida softball team swept the
37 University of Alabama during the 2014 Women's College World
38 Series in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to claim its first NCAA
39 national championship, and

40 WHEREAS, the University of Florida gymnastics team in 2014
41 won its second straight NCAA national championship in
42 Birmingham, Alabama, sharing the title with the University of
43 Oklahoma, and

44 WHEREAS, aided by \$42 million in funding from the
45 Legislature, the University of Florida broke ground in October
46 2014 on its 110,000-square-foot chemistry/chemical biology
47 building, which will support collaboration between the College
48 of Medicine and the College of Engineering on important drug
49 discoveries, and

50 WHEREAS, the University of Florida has opened Heavener
51 Hall, an innovative classroom and learning facility for
52 undergraduate majors in business, and launched Cypress Hall, a
53 new residence hall that will include the university's first
54 specially equipped rooms for students with disabilities, and

55 WHEREAS, for the third year in a row, Kiplinger's Personal
56 Finance ranked the University of Florida third on its list of
57 the 100 best values in public college, and

58 WHEREAS, the University of Florida maintains that value

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59 ranking with its in-state tuition of \$6,310 for a full-time
60 undergraduate carrying a course load of 30 semester credits,
61 which is considerably lower than the national average of \$9,139
62 for a 4-year public university, and

63 WHEREAS, the University of Florida conferred its 500,000th
64 degree in 2014, making it one of only a handful of universities
65 nationwide to reach such a milestone and sustaining its lengthy
66 history of providing Floridians with higher education and
67 economic opportunity, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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71 That March 24, 2015, is recognized as "University of
72 Florida Day" in Tallahassee in honor of the University of
73 Florida's significant contributions to its state, to its nation,
74 and throughout the world.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
76 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the University
77 of Florida as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida
78 Senate.