

By Senator Bean

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution commending the Independent Colleges &
3 Universities of Florida for the organization's five
4 decades of service to the students, communities, and
5 employers of this state.

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7 WHEREAS, a strong, private, not-for-profit higher education
8 system is vital to the economic well-being of this state, and

9 WHEREAS, in 1965, the presidents of 11 colleges and
10 universities in Florida together created the Independent
11 Colleges & Universities of Florida to support the critical role
12 of independent higher education in this state, and

13 WHEREAS, these college and university presidents sought to
14 strengthen and promote independent higher education in Florida,
15 thereby creating more educational options and access for the
16 residents of this state, and

17 WHEREAS, the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida
18 worked with Governor Reubin Askew in 1972 on the effort to
19 create the needs-based Florida Student Assistance Grant Program
20 for students attending public and private institutions, and

21 WHEREAS, the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida
22 later championed the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident
23 Access Grant Program, which now, in its 36th year, is assisting
24 nearly 40,000 students annually with their undergraduate tuition
25 costs, and

26 WHEREAS, today, the Independent Colleges & Universities of
27 Florida's 31 member institutions serve more than 155,000
28 students at 135 sites across the state, offer more than 400
29 online degree programs, and award more than 60 percent of

4-00648-15

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30 degrees in the important fields of science, technology,
31 engineering, mathematics, health care, business, and education,
32 and

33 WHEREAS, in this Golden Anniversary year, these independent
34 colleges and universities will award 25 percent of all
35 bachelor's degrees, more than 50 percent of all first
36 professional degrees, and more than 40 percent of all advanced
37 degrees in Florida, and

38 WHEREAS, Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida
39 represents a vibrant educational system with \$10 billion in
40 assets, 35,000 employees, and annual operating budgets totaling
41 more than \$5 billion, adding to the economic vitality of this
42 state and providing essential resources for its students, NOW,
43 THEREFORE,

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

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47 That the Florida Senate extends its congratulations and
48 commends the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida for
49 its five decades of service to the students, communities, and
50 employers of this state.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
52 signed by the President of the Senate, with the Seal of the
53 Senate affixed, be presented to the Independent Colleges &
54 Universities of Florida as a tangible token of the sentiments of
55 the Florida Senate.