

By Senator Hukill

14-01779-17

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Bethune-Cookman University and
3 recognizing March 22, 2017, as "Wildcat Day" in
4 Florida.

5
6 WHEREAS, on October 3, 1904, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, with
7 "five girls, \$1.50, and faith in God," founded the Daytona
8 Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls in
9 Daytona Beach, which would become Bethune-Cookman College in
10 1931, and

11 WHEREAS, through the power of God and the tenacity of Mary
12 McLeod Bethune, the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training
13 School for Negro Girls grew from an all-girls elementary school
14 to Bethune-Cookman College, launching its first master's degree
15 program in 2006 and achieving university status in early 2007,
16 and

17 WHEREAS, with a current total enrollment of 3,934, Bethune-
18 Cookman University offers 43 degrees through 12 academic schools
19 and colleges, including 7 graduate degree programs, and 11
20 online degrees; maintains intercollegiate athletic programs and
21 instrumental and choral groups that have achieved national
22 recognition; and is one of three private historically black
23 colleges and universities in the state, and

24 WHEREAS, on March 20, 2013, after serving 11 months as
25 interim president, Edison O. Jackson, Ed.D., accepted the
26 appointment to become the sixth president of Bethune-Cookman
27 University, bringing with him a wealth of experience and
28 knowledge in administering the affairs of educational
29 institutions, and

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30 WHEREAS, under President Jackson's leadership, Bethune-
31 Cookman University has increased philanthropic giving to the
32 university and maintained accreditations with the Southern
33 Association of Colleges and Schools, the Florida State Board of
34 Education, and the United Methodist Church Board of Higher
35 Education, and

36 WHEREAS, in recent years, Bethune-Cookman University has
37 remodeled the dining hall, renovated Gertrude Heyn Memorial
38 Chapel, and added four floors to the Harrison Rhodes Memorial
39 Social Science Building and has constructed two new residence
40 halls that allow the university to house 3,000 students, the
41 most in the school's history, and

42 WHEREAS, Bethune-Cookman University strives to develop
43 global leaders who are committed to service, lifelong learning,
44 and diversity by providing a faith-based environment for
45 academic excellence and transformative experiences, and

46 WHEREAS, Bethune-Cookman University's motto, "Enter to
47 learn. Depart to serve," represents a call to action for 21st-
48 century learners to empower themselves and others, connect with
49 their communities, and influence the world around them, NOW,
50 THEREFORE,

51
52 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

53
54 That March 22, 2017, is recognized as "Wildcat Day" in
55 Florida in recognition of Bethune-Cookman University's
56 contribution as an outstanding institution of higher education.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
58 presented to the president of Bethune-Cookman University, Edison

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59 O. Jackson, Ed.D., as a tangible token of the sentiments
60 expressed herein.