

By Senator Hukill

14-01884-18

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Bethune-Cookman University and
3 designating January 11, 2018, as "Wildcat Day" in the
4 State of 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 Literary 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 Literary 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 4,140 students,
18 Bethune-Cookman University offers 43 degrees through 12 academic
19 schools and colleges, including 7 graduate programs, and offers
20 11 online degrees; maintains intercollegiate athletic programs
21 and instrumental and choral groups that have achieved national
22 recognition; and is one of 3 private historically black colleges
23 and universities in this state, and

24 WHEREAS, on July 13, 2017, after serving as the general
25 counsel for 2 years, Judge Hubert L. Grimes (Retired) accepted
26 an appointment as the interim president of Bethune-Cookman
27 University, bringing with him 25 years of judicial and
28 administrative experience, and

29 WHEREAS, during Interim President Grimes' first 90 days,

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30 the Bethune-Cookman University community adopted the acronym
31 TIP, pledging "transparency, integrity, and positive action,"
32 and to that end, the university has maintained accreditations
33 with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the
34 Florida State Board of Education, and the United Methodist
35 Church Board of Higher Education, and

36 WHEREAS, Bethune-Cookman University has experienced
37 tremendous growth, with the highest enrollment in the school's
38 history and the largest freshman class with more than 1,300
39 students; has become the first college or university in Florida
40 and second historically black college or university in the
41 nation to obtain United States Distance Learning Association
42 certification; and the university's online college is now
43 certified in 25 states and the Bahamas, and

44 WHEREAS, Bethune-Cookman University develops global leaders
45 who are committed to service, lifelong learning, and diversity
46 by providing a faith-based environment of academic excellence
47 and transformative experiences and since 1943 has graduated more
48 than 19,000 students, and

49 WHEREAS, the university's motto, "Enter to learn. Depart to
50 serve," represents a call to action for 21st century learners to
51 empower themselves and others, connect with their communities,
52 and influence the world around them, NOW, THEREFORE,

53
54 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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56 That January 11, 2018, is designated as "Wildcat Day" in
57 the State of Florida in recognition of Bethune-Cookman
58 University's contribution as an outstanding institution of

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59 higher education.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
61 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the interim
62 president of Bethune-Cookman University, Judge Hubert L. Grimes,
63 as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.