

By Senator Stargel

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing Florida Polytechnic University for successfully meeting the criteria established by the Legislature in creating it.

WHEREAS, the creation of Florida Polytechnic University was proposed by legislation advanced in the 2012 legislative session, which was approved by the Governor on April 20, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the enacting legislation established criteria to be met by the fledgling university related to academic programs, facilities, administration, student enrollment, and programmatic and institutional accreditation, and

WHEREAS, in August 2014, Florida Polytechnic University opened its doors in Lakeland to an inaugural class of 554 students in the 2014 fall term, and in the 2017 fall term enrolled 1,445 students and employed 225 full-time staff and faculty, and

WHEREAS, Florida Polytechnic University's mission is to catalyze Florida's economic growth through applied science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and research, and

WHEREAS, Florida Polytechnic University's iconic Innovation, Science, and Technology Building, designed by Santiago Calatrava, was voted by architects as 1 of the 16 most breathtaking buildings in the world, and

WHEREAS, to fulfill its mission of economic development and meeting Florida's workforce needs, Florida Polytechnic University offers degrees in computer engineering, electrical

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30 engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science and  
31 information technology, advanced technology, and science and  
32 technology management, and

33 WHEREAS, Florida Polytechnic University strives to develop  
34 the complete, mature engineer who will remain in Florida through  
35 a hands-on curriculum that includes strong fundamentals,  
36 effective problem solving and communication skills, and  
37 leadership, and

38 WHEREAS, Florida Polytechnic University works with more  
39 than 200 industry partners to identify research projects, grow  
40 small-sized to medium-sized businesses, and place students in  
41 internships, all of which are graduation requirements, and

42 WHEREAS, Florida Polytechnic University's successful  
43 entrepreneurship program is focused on student activity and  
44 involvement and empowers students to explore their ideas and  
45 create new business ventures, and

46 WHEREAS, Florida Polytechnic University students have  
47 placed in all entered entrepreneurship competitions, including  
48 second place in the Florida Venture Forum and third place in the  
49 Governor's Cup Competition, and

50 WHEREAS, Florida Polytechnic University looks forward to  
51 the future with plans to increase enrollment, continue to  
52 recruit highly qualified and diverse students, and increase the  
53 number of majors and faculty, and

54 WHEREAS, Florida Polytechnic University graduates are  
55 employed in high-skill, high-wage jobs and many are receiving  
56 awards and accolades for their achievements in computer  
57 engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering,  
58 computer science and information technology, advanced

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59 technology, and science and technology management, and

60 WHEREAS, in June 2017, Florida Polytechnic University was  
61 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
62 Commission on Colleges, thereby successfully fulfilling the  
63 legislative criteria set forth in the enacting legislation, NOW,  
64 THEREFORE,

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

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68 That Florida Polytechnic University is recognized for and  
69 congratulated on successfully meeting the criteria established  
70 by the Legislature in creating it.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
72 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Florida  
73 Polytechnic University President Randy K. Avent, Ph.D., as a  
74 tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.