

By Senator Simmons

9-01889C-18

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Senate Resolution

A resolution commending the extraordinary achievements of the faculty, staff, administration, and students of the University of Central Florida and President John C. Hitt, Ph.D., and recognizing January 24, 2018, as "University of Central Florida Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, founded in 1963, the University of Central Florida (UCF) is located in Orlando and, during the 2016-2017 academic year, with its 13 colleges, provided educational opportunities to 64,318 students from all 50 states and 153 countries, and

WHEREAS, during that academic year, UCF had 289 enrolled National Merit Scholars and boasted a freshman class with an average SAT score of 1,262 and an average high school weighted grade point average of 4.02, and

WHEREAS, UCF now awards more than 15,000 degrees annually, more than any other public university in the nation, and

WHEREAS, in the 2015-2016 academic year, UCF awarded 2,317 baccalaureate degrees in STEM fields, and, each year, more than 20,000 students gain practical experience through co-ops, internships, and service-learning projects, and

WHEREAS, UCF has a diverse student body, with a 44.6 percent minority population and a 23.8 percent Hispanic population, and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2018, the UCF Knights football team completed a perfect season with a 34-27 win over Auburn University in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, the only team to go undefeated in the 2017 collegiate football season, and

WHEREAS, in March 1992, John C. Hitt, Ph.D., became UCF's

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30 fourth president, and at that time the university's enrollment  
31 ranked fifth in Florida and 115th in the nation, and

32 WHEREAS, Dr. Hitt oversaw the establishment of the UCF  
33 College of Medicine in 2006, and it has attracted some of the  
34 nation's top students and faculty members and will soon be  
35 joined by a university hospital being developed in partnership  
36 with the Hospital Corporation of America, the nation's largest  
37 hospital company, and

38 WHEREAS, Dr. Hitt has been recognized as one of the most  
39 innovative university presidents in America, and UCF now ranks  
40 alongside Harvard, Stanford, and Duke as one of the nation's  
41 most innovative universities, according to *U.S. News & World*  
42 *Report's Best Colleges of 2018*, and

43 WHEREAS, under Dr. Hitt's leadership, enrollment at UCF has  
44 tripled, making it the largest university in Florida and one of  
45 the largest in the United States, and

46 WHEREAS, most importantly, over the course of the past 26  
47 years, Dr. Hitt has overseen tremendous gains in the quality of  
48 academic programs, faculty, and students and in the development  
49 of UCF as a major metropolitan research university of global  
50 impact, and the university has launched more than \$1 billion in  
51 new construction, and

52 WHEREAS, Dr. Hitt will retire on June 30, 2018, after more  
53 than 26 transformative years as UCF president, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

56  
57 That the extraordinary achievements of the faculty, staff,  
58 administration, and students of the University of Central

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59 Florida and President John C. Hitt, Ph.D., are commended, and  
60 January 24, 2018, is recognized as "University of Central  
61 Florida Day" in Florida.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
63 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to University of  
64 Central Florida President John C. Hitt, Ph.D., as a tangible  
65 token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.