

By Senator Perry

8-03182-19

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Senate Resolution

A resolution commending the University of Florida for its outstanding ranking as eighth on the 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* list of Top Public Schools in the nation and recognizing April 10, 2019, as "Gator Day."

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a top 10 university, rising from No. 9 in 2018 to No. 8 in the 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* list of Top Public Schools among National Universities, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues its upward momentum with a 40-percent increase in the number of graduate programs now ranked among the top 30 nationwide, according to the 2020 *U.S. News & World Report* list of Best Graduate Schools, and

WHEREAS, UF Online, the University of Florida's online bachelor's degree program, is tied for the No. 5 spot in the country, up from No. 12 last year, in the 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, and

WHEREAS, UF physics professor Clifford Will is the 2019 recipient of the Albert Einstein Medal by the Albert Einstein Society in Bern, Switzerland, for his "important contributions to general relativity," and

WHEREAS, UF researchers, with funding from the State of Florida, have developed a rapid, cost-effective point-of-care test for the Zika virus which can be used in the field, and

WHEREAS, applications to the University of Florida once again reached a new record in 2019, with more than 41,000 prospective students vying for admission during the summer and

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30 fall semesters, and

31 WHEREAS, UF was ranked No. 6 on *College Magazine's* list of
32 the top 10 campuses for students who have physical disabilities,
33 and

34 WHEREAS, with generous funding made possible by the
35 Legislature, the University of Florida is nearly halfway toward
36 reaching its goal of hiring 500 new faculty members to further
37 enhance teaching and research and to build on UF's reputation as
38 one of the very best research universities in the nation, and

39 WHEREAS, University of Florida faculty earned a record
40 \$837.6 million in research awards in fiscal year 2018, and

41 WHEREAS, UF athletes have won 20 national team titles since
42 the 2008-2009 season, and UF is one of only two programs to
43 claim at least one national title in collegiate sports each of
44 the last 11 seasons, and

45 WHEREAS, the UF athletic program has ranked among the
46 nation's top 10 for 35 straight years (1983-1984 to 2017-2018)
47 and among the top 5 for 20 of the last 27 years, according to
48 national all-sport rankings, and

49 WHEREAS, the University of Florida Athletic Association has
50 contributed more than \$76 million since 2006 to help fund UF
51 academic endeavors, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

54
55 That the Florida Senate commends the University of Florida
56 for its outstanding ranking as eighth on the 2019 *U.S. News &*
57 *World Report* list of Top Public Schools in the nation and
58 recognizes April 10, 2019, as "Gator Day."

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59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
60 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to University of
61 Florida President W. Kent Fuchs as a tangible token of the
62 sentiments of the Florida Senate.