

By Senator Benacquisto

27-03119-19

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing March 26, 2019, as "Florida Gulf Coast University Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, in May 1991, then-Governor Lawton Chiles signed into law a bill authorizing the creation of Florida's tenth public university, Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), to provide higher educational opportunities and workforce development in the previously underserved region of Southwest Florida, and

WHEREAS, FGCU opened its doors to students on August 25, 1997, and held its first commencement ceremony in May 1998 with 81 graduates, and

WHEREAS, FGCU has been led by four outstanding and dynamic presidents: President Roy McTarnaghan, President William C. Merwin, President Wilson G. Bradshaw, and President Michael V. Martin, and

WHEREAS, with the leadership and vision of Dr. Michael V. Martin and the FGCU Board of Trustees, FGCU students have a clear pathway to success, and the university is committed to maintaining college affordability, and

WHEREAS, FGCU's top priority is student success, which includes a strong focus on providing the necessary academic resources and laboratory facilities to timely complete degrees from one of the five colleges providing relevant programs with an accomplished faculty and dedicated staff to help students prepare for successful careers and meet regional and statewide workforce needs, and

WHEREAS, FGCU has strategically grown into a regional

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30 university of 15,000 students and today offers 58 undergraduate,  
31 25 graduate, 12 certificate, and 6 doctoral programs, and

32 WHEREAS, FGCU's pathways to student success have led the  
33 university to achieve national prominence in academics,  
34 environmental sustainability, and student service learning, with  
35 approximately 2.66 million collective student service learning  
36 hours contributed to the Southwest Florida community since 1997,  
37 and

38 WHEREAS, FGCU emphasizes innovative and interdisciplinary  
39 learning, using the region as a living laboratory while offering  
40 students diverse opportunities to participate in meaningful  
41 research led by their professors, and

42 WHEREAS, FGCU has established the Institute of  
43 Entrepreneurship, bringing engineering and business students  
44 together to develop products and business plans in a real-world  
45 setting and providing learning opportunities that enhance the  
46 university's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
47 educational and sustainability initiatives, and

48 WHEREAS, FGCU is creating, refining, and investing in  
49 existing programs with innovative public-private educational  
50 partnerships, and

51 WHEREAS, FGCU serves and engages its surrounding community,  
52 offering a wealth of enrichment opportunities that include the  
53 FGCU Research Roadshow, visual arts, music, theater, and public  
54 radio and television, and

55 WHEREAS, FGCU's athletics programs continue to be a growing  
56 source of pride for their loyal fans with student-athletes  
57 continuing to demonstrate their academic strengths, and

58 WHEREAS, the collegiate experience continues to enrich the

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59 lives of FGCU students and to serve the surrounding community  
60 through "The FGCU Effect" and the university's longstanding  
61 commitment to promoting racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity  
62 on campus, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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66 That March 26, 2019, is recognized as "Florida Gulf Coast  
67 University Day" in Florida.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
69 presented to Michael V. Martin, Ph.D., president of Florida Gulf  
70 Coast University, as a tangible token of the sentiments  
71 expressed herein.