

By Senators Harrell, Mayfield, and Albritton

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Senate Resolution

A resolution commending Indian River State College on receiving the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's top honor recognizing the best community colleges in America.

WHEREAS, the Aspen Institute, an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C., has awarded its highest honor, the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, to Indian River State College, and

WHEREAS, Indian River State College was selected for the award from among more than 1,000 state and community colleges that the Aspen Institute reviewed according to a rigorous evaluation of data, strategies, and outcomes relating to student learning and achievement, and

WHEREAS, according to the institute, Indian River State College stands out as one of the nation's top community colleges for many reasons, including the college's 56 percent university transfer rate, compared to the national average of 32 percent, and

WHEREAS, 94 percent of Indian River State College graduates find employment or continue their education, with 52 percent of the students going on to attain a bachelor's degree, compared to the national average of 42 percent, and

WHEREAS, in another gauge of student success, Indian River State College's 2017-2018 graduating class, totaling 3,951 students, was the largest in the college's 58-year history, and

WHEREAS, the Aspen Institute also recognized Indian River State College for its exceptional access for minority students

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30 and low-income students, and the college is designated as the  
31 third most affordable college in the United States by the  
32 Department of Education, with no tuition increase in the past 6  
33 years, and

34 WHEREAS, the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence  
35 is awarded every 2 years and is generously funded by major  
36 foundation partners, and Indian River State College has been  
37 selected as a Top 10 finalist for the award in each of the past  
38 3 program cycles, advancing in 2017 to the Aspen Prize Top 3 as  
39 a Finalist with Distinction, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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43 That the Senate commends Indian River State College on  
44 receiving the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence,  
45 the nation's top honor recognizing the best community colleges  
46 in America.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
48 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Indian River  
49 State College President Dr. Edwin Massey as a tangible token of  
50 the sentiments of the Florida Senate.