

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the University of Florida as
3 an outstanding institution of higher education and
4 designating April 10, 2019, as "Gator Day" in Florida.
5

6 WHEREAS, the University of Florida has been ranked one of
7 the top 10 public universities, rising from its Number 9
8 position in 2018 to Number 8 in 2019 on the U.S. News & World
9 Report Top Public Schools list, and

10 WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues its upward
11 momentum with a 40 percent increase in the number of graduate
12 programs, listed among the top 30 programs nationwide in the
13 2020 U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools rankings,
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Professor Clifford Will of the University of
16 Florida Department of Physics is bestowed the 2019 Albert
17 Einstein Medal by the Albert Einstein Society in Bern,
18 Switzerland, for his "important contributions to General
19 Relativity," a prestigious award whose first recipient was
20 Stephen Hawking, in 1979, and

21 WHEREAS, the University of Florida researchers led by
22 Professors Z. Hugh Fan and John Lednicky have also made
23 significant contributions to the advancement of science with the
24 development of a simple, cost-effective device that could be

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25 | used at a physician's office to quickly identify Zika virus
26 | infection in a patient, and

27 | WHEREAS, a 2019 article in "Issues in Science and
28 | Technology" lists the University of Florida as one of the
29 | baccalaureate-origin institutions with the highest number of
30 | Hispanic graduates, as well as the highest number of African
31 | American graduates, who go on to earn doctorate degrees in the
32 | natural sciences and engineering fields between 2007 and 2016,
33 | the only institution that ranks among the top 10 on both
34 | demographics lists, and

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

39 | WHEREAS, UF Online, the University of Florida's online
40 | bachelor's degree program, is tied for the Number 5 position in
41 | the country, up from Number 12 last year, in the 2019 U.S. News
42 | & World Report Best Online Programs rankings, and

43 | WHEREAS, in March 2019, College Magazine recognized the
44 | University of Florida as having the 6th best campus for students
45 | with physical disabilities, and

46 | WHEREAS, the University of Florida also distinguishes
47 | itself through its athletic program, listed among the nation's
48 | top 10 for 35 straight years and among the top 5 for 20 of the
49 | last 27 years, according to national all-sport rankings, and

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50 WHEREAS, since the 2008-09 season, Gator teams have won 20
51 national titles, and the University of Florida is one of two
52 athletic programs to claim at least one national title in each
53 of the last 10 seasons, NOW, THEREFORE,

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55 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
56 Florida:

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58 That the University of Florida is commended for the
59 outstanding achievements of its faculty, staff, administration,
60 and students, and April 10, 2019, is recognized as "Gator Day"
61 in Florida.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
63 presented to the University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs,
64 Ph.D., as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.