

By Senator Perry

8-02126-20

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Senate Resolution

A resolution commending the University of Florida for its continued achievements in the pursuit of academic and research excellence and designating February 18, 2020, as "Gator Day" at the Capitol.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a top 10 university in the United States, rising from No. 8 in 2019 to No. 7 in the 2020 *U.S. News & World Report* list of Best Public Universities, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues its upward momentum with 28 programs nationally ranked in the top 30 in their respective disciplines, including 7 programs ranked in the top 10, and 17 in the top 20, according to the 2020 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Graduate Schools rankings, and

WHEREAS, according to the National Science Foundation, the University of Florida's research spending rose nearly 8 percent to a record \$865 million in the 2018 fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, University of Florida Health researchers have been instrumental in developing a vaccine used to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus, a breakthrough with the potential to save countless lives which has been listed by *National Geographic* as one of the top 20 scientific discoveries of the decade, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a national leader in transferring its research to the marketplace through its two award-winning incubators – UF Innovate-The Hub and the Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute – both of which have been recognized as leading national and international business incubators by the International Business Innovation Association,

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30 and

31 WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues to expand
32 access to education through the UF Online pathway, with more
33 than 2,000 students having graduated through this unique program
34 and 4,000 active learners, earning the No. 5 spot nationally
35 among all online educational programs by *U.S. News & World*
36 *Report* in 2019, and

37 WHEREAS, the University of Florida athletic program has
38 ranked among the nation's top 10 for 36 consecutive years – from
39 1983-1984 to 2018-2019 – and has attained a top 5 overall finish
40 in 21 of the past 28 years, according to national all-sport
41 rankings, and

42 WHEREAS, the University of Florida Athletic Association has
43 contributed more than \$112 million since 2006 to help fund UF's
44 various academic endeavors, and

45 WHEREAS, the University of Florida and related entities
46 contributed \$16.91 billion to the state's economy in the 2017-
47 2018 fiscal year and accounted for \$10.4 billion – or 1.1
48 percent – of the Gross State Product of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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52 That the University of Florida is commended for its
53 continued achievements in the pursuit of academic and research
54 excellence and that February 18, 2020, is designated as "Gator
55 Day" at the Capitol.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
57 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to University of
58 Florida President W. Kent Fuchs as a tangible token of the

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59 sentiments of the Florida Senate.