

By Senator Powell

30-02612-20

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 6, 2020, as "FAMU Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) was founded in 1887, named a land-grant institution in 1891, and designated a university in 1953, and

WHEREAS, FAMU, a historically black college and university (HBCU) offering undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate, and professional degree programs, seeks qualified students from all racial, ethnic, religious, and national groups and has provided immeasurable educational opportunities for young men and women, and

WHEREAS, academic components of the university consist of seven colleges and seven schools: the Colleges of Agriculture and Food Sciences; Education; Engineering; Law; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Science and Technology; and Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities; and the schools of Allied Health Sciences; Architecture and Engineering Technology; Business and Industry; the Environment; Graduate Studies and Research; Journalism and Graphic Communication; and Nursing, and

WHEREAS, FAMU ranks first among HBCUs in the number of African-American students receiving baccalaureate degrees, and ranks first in the nation in the number of students it graduates with doctoral degrees in pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, and administration, according to *Diverse Issues in Higher Education's* "Top 100 Producers, 2019," and

WHEREAS, FAMU is ranked first among HBCUs in research and development, according to the National Science Foundation, and

30-02612-20

20201898__

30 is listed as a research university offering doctoral degrees
31 with "high research activity" in the Carnegie Classification of
32 Institutions of Higher Education, and

33 WHEREAS, subsequent to authorization by the Legislature in
34 2019 for FAMU to pursue low-interest financing, the United
35 States Department of Education approved the largest financing
36 package in the history of the HBCU Capital Financing Program to
37 allow construction of a new 700-bed residence hall on campus,
38 and

39 WHEREAS, in 2019, FAMU received a 5-year, \$14.8 million
40 grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health
41 Disparities, a division of the National Institutes of Health, to
42 address health disparities by enhancing FAMU's research
43 capacity, increasing the number of minority research
44 investigators, and promoting minority health as a catalyst in
45 reducing health disparities, and

46 WHEREAS, FAMU received three grants totaling \$2.2 million
47 from the United States Department of Education's Minority
48 Science Engineering Improvement Program to increase the number
49 of minority students participating in the university's Program
50 of Excellence in STEM, and

51 WHEREAS, the FAMU Program of Excellence in STEM is a
52 collaborative effort across disciplines which has impacted more
53 than 200 students by providing them with exposure to research
54 and coursework in various STEM-related fields, with more than 90
55 percent of these students selecting STEM majors in college and
56 nearly 80 percent of them attending FAMU, and

57 WHEREAS, FAMU was recognized in *U.S. News & World Report's*
58 2019 ranking of the "Top Public Schools" as the highest ranked

30-02612-20

20201898__

59 public HBCU in the nation, and

60 WHEREAS, FAMU, was also recognized as one of the most
61 affordable universities in this state by *College Choice*, and

62 WHEREAS, FAMU was recognized as a "National Top College for
63 Diversity and Inclusion" by *Latino Leaders Magazine*, and

64 WHEREAS, in 2019, the FAMU Rattler football team had its
65 best season since 1998, with a record of 9-2 overall and 7-1 in
66 the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, finishing the season ranked
67 No. 1 by the Black College Sports Network, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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71 That February 6, 2020, is recognized as "FAMU Day" in
72 Florida.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
74 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Larry Robinson,
75 Ph.D., president of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
76 University, as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida
77 Senate.