

HR 8013

2021

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating March 23, 2021, as "Florida  
3 Gulf Coast University Day" in Florida.

4  
5 WHEREAS, in May 1991, then-Governor Lawton Chiles signed  
6 into law a bill passed by the Florida Legislature authorizing  
7 the creation of Florida's 10th public university, Florida Gulf  
8 Coast University (FGCU), to provide higher education  
9 opportunities and workforce development in the previously  
10 underserved region of Southwest Florida, and

11 WHEREAS, FGCU opened its doors to students on August 25,  
12 1997, and held its first commencement in May 1998 with 81  
13 graduates, and

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

17 WHEREAS, with the leadership and vision of Dr. Michael V.  
18 Martin and the FGCU Board of Trustees, FGCU provides students  
19 with a clear pathway to success and maintains college  
20 affordability, and

21 WHEREAS, FGCU's top priority is student success, which  
22 includes a strong focus on providing the necessary academic  
23 resources and laboratory facilities to timely complete degrees  
24 from one of the six colleges providing relevant programs with an  
25 accomplished faculty and dedicated staff to help students

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26 | prepare for successful careers and meet regional and statewide  
27 | workforce needs, and

28 |       WHEREAS, FGCU has strategically grown into a regional  
29 | university of nearly 15,000 students and today offers 63  
30 | undergraduate, 26 masters, and 7 doctoral programs, and

31 |       WHEREAS, FGCU has climbed 11 spots, to number 17, in the  
32 | Top Public School Regional University South rankings from U.S.  
33 | News & World Report, and has increased four-year graduation  
34 | rates by 13 percent from 2013 to 2015, and

35 |       WHEREAS, FGCU's pathways to student success have led to  
36 | achieving national prominence in academics, environmental  
37 | sustainability, and student service learning, with over 3  
38 | million hours contributed to the Southwest Florida community  
39 | since 1997, and

40 |       WHEREAS, FGCU emphasizes innovative and interdisciplinary  
41 | learning, using the region as a living laboratory while offering  
42 | students diverse opportunities to participate in meaningful  
43 | research led by their professors while earning a ranking among  
44 | the Top 50 Green Colleges, the only university in Florida to  
45 | make the list, and

46 |       WHEREAS, FGCU has established The Water School, breaking  
47 | ground on the new academic building on November 21, 2019, to  
48 | create a University of Distinction program that will provide  
49 | FGCU the foundation to become a state and national leader in the

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50 area of water, focusing on local issues to address challenges  
51 throughout the world, and

52 WHEREAS, FGCU has established the Daveler and Kauanui  
53 School of Entrepreneurship, bringing students from all  
54 disciplines together to develop products and business plans in a  
55 real-world setting, leading to recognition by the Princeton  
56 Review, which named it the best such school in Florida and 29th  
57 in the nation, and has produced over 400 businesses started by  
58 FGCU students and alumni since August 2016, and

59 WHEREAS, FGCU's School of Nursing has over 98 percent  
60 first-time board certification pass rates and 100 percent post-  
61 graduate employment, and develops engaged leaders who deliver  
62 transformative care, conduct research, and promote evidence-  
63 based practice through academic and community partnership, and

64 WHEREAS, FGCU's Lutgert College of Business and Marieb  
65 College of Health and Human Services have launched "Restart  
66 SWFL" to help businesses respond to the impact of COVID-19, and  
67 help establishments get back on their feet and improve consumer  
68 confidence, and

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

72 WHEREAS, the collegiate experience continues to enrich the  
73 lives of FGCU students and serve the surrounding community  
74 through "The FGCU Effect" and the university's longstanding

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75 | commitment to promoting racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity  
76 | on campus, NOW, THEREFORE,

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78 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
79 | Florida:

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81 |       That March 23, 2021, is designated as "Florida Gulf Coast  
82 | University Day" in Florida.

83

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