

HR 8049

2021

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing April 8, 2021, as "Gator Day"
3 in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a top 10 university,
6 rising from 7th to 6th in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report Top
7 Public Schools, and

8 WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues its upward
9 momentum with 12 colleges and 61 graduate programs ranked in the
10 top 25 among the country's public universities, including 13
11 programs ranked in the top 10, according to the 2022 U.S. News &
12 World Report Best Graduate Schools rankings, and

13 WHEREAS, the University of Florida's research spending and
14 prowess, a record \$942.2 million in 2020, continues to yield
15 huge returns for the state and advances discoveries and
16 inventions that address the most pressing challenges of our
17 time, and

18 WHEREAS, the University of Florida has had 28 faculty
19 members inducted as members into the National Academies of
20 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and

21 WHEREAS, through a groundbreaking partnership with leading
22 technology company NVIDIA, the University of Florida has the
23 most powerful artificial intelligence (AI) computer in higher
24 education and is pursuing a strategy to become a world leader in
25 AI education, research, and workforce development that will

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26 uniquely position the state as a destination for AI-related
27 industries, and

28 WHEREAS, University of Florida Health researchers and
29 clinicians, faced with a year of unprecedented challenges
30 brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, have led the way on
31 numerous fronts in the war against this deadly disease, from
32 successfully treating thousands of patients across the state and
33 nation, developing breakthrough treatments such as a lung
34 pacemaker to help severely sick patients breathe while also
35 performing numerous lung transplants on patients whose lungs
36 were too compromised by the virus to be viable, unlocking the
37 mysteries of the novel coronavirus in laboratories, and leading
38 the way in community testing, and

39 WHEREAS, the University of Florida continues to welcome
40 Gators via the UF Online pathway, with more than 4,000 active
41 students - from across the state, the United States, and 16
42 countries around the globe - earning their University of Florida
43 bachelor's degree, in addition to the more than 3,000 Gators who
44 have already graduated, via UF Online, which was ranked 3rd and
45 2nd in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report Best Online Bachelor's
46 Programs and Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans,
47 respectively, and

48 WHEREAS, the University of Florida's Career Connections
49 Center (C3) is nationally ranked 2nd in college career centers
50 according to the latest rankings by Best Colleges and was

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51 recognized for its eight-semester guide that provides an
52 intentional checklist for undergraduate students to use
53 throughout their academic journey, and

54 WHEREAS, the University of Florida's athletic program has
55 ranked among the nation's top 10 for 36 straight years (1983-
56 1984 through 2018-2019), including 11 consecutive top five
57 overall finishes, according to national all-sports rankings,
58 NOW, THEREFORE,

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60 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
61 Florida:

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63 That the University of Florida is commended and
64 congratulated for its dedication to the advancement of the State
65 of Florida and on its rise to 6th in the 2021 U.S. News & World
66 Report Top Public Schools, and that April 8, 2021, is recognized
67 as "Gator Day" in Florida.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
69 presented to the University of Florida President Dr. W. Kent
70 Fuchs as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.