

By Senator Jones

34-03195C-23

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 13, 2023, as "FAMU Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Florida's only public historically black college and university (HBCU), was founded on October 3, 1887, named a land-grant institution in 1891, and designated a university in 1953, and

WHEREAS, academic components of the university consist of 98 undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate, and professional degree programs within 7 colleges – the Colleges of Agriculture and Food Sciences; Education; Engineering; Law; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Science and Technology; and Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities – and 7 schools – 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, under the unwavering dedication of FAMU's twelfth President, Larry Robinson, Ph.D., and the FAMU Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, FAMU continues its "March to the Top 100" public universities in the nation, and is now ranked 103, the highest-ranked public HBCU for the last 4 years, according to the *U.S. News & World Report 2022-2023 Best Colleges* rankings, and

WHEREAS, with more than 9,000 students, FAMU has experienced a record number of applications from students who will begin their college experience at FAMU, exceeding 20,000 in a single year, with admitted students for the fall semester of

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2023 having an average high school GPA of 3.96, and

WHEREAS, during the 2022-2023 academic year, FAMU continues to elevate student success through retention, favorable graduation rates, and degree productivity, and in the 2021-2022 academic year awarded 2,284 degrees, and

WHEREAS, FAMU continues its commitment to meaningful community service as evidenced by a federal grant from the Department of Commerce to reduce the digital divide and promote economic prosperity within Southside Tallahassee, and

WHEREAS, in the 2021-2022 academic year, the FAMU faculty and staff garnered a record \$75 million in research funding, and the university leads the HBCU community in nonmedical school research funding expenditures, exceeding \$59 million during the same period, and

WHEREAS, FAMU celebrates the 2023 election of former Rattler quarterback, head football coach, and athletic director Ken Riley to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in recognition of his 15-season career with the Cincinnati Bengals, during which he amassed 65 career interceptions, the fourth-most in National Football League history at the time of his retirement, and

WHEREAS, under a United States Department of Agriculture charter, the FAMU Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research maintains the world's most extensive muscadine grape germplasm collection, and

WHEREAS, under this close industry-clientele partnership, the economically feasible and accelerated breeding pipeline has allowed the release in the last 2 years of three new patented American native grape cultivars - Floriana, Florida Onyx, and Blanc du Soleil, and

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59 WHEREAS, the incomparable FAMU Marching 100 and the FAMU
60 Symphonic Band continue to excite audiences from Paris, France,
61 to Miami with thrilling performances, and

62 WHEREAS, among its 14 National Collegiate Athletics
63 Association programs, the FAMU women's volleyball team defeated
64 a top-seeded opponent to win the 2022 Southwestern Athletic
65 Conference Women's Volleyball Tournament Championship for the
66 second year in a row, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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70 That April 13, 2023, is recognized as "FAMU Day" in
71 Florida.