

HR 8039

2023

House Resolution

A resolution designating April 12, 2023, as "Gator Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is among the nation's top universities, remaining fifth among all public universities in the 2023 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings for the second year in a row, and

WHEREAS, in 2022, University of Florida faculty joined an exclusive group of approximately 15 public universities around the country in surpassing \$1 billion in research spending, developing agricultural products, engineering solutions, disease treatments, and countless other advancements, and

WHEREAS, in 2023, U.S. News & World Report ranked the University of Florida as the top institution in the country to offer an online bachelor's degree program for veterans and active-duty servicemembers, acknowledging the university's longstanding tradition of supporting members of the United States Armed Forces in their pursuit of higher education, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the University of Florida's continued goal of delivering world-class educational opportunities across multiple platforms, the university's online bachelor's degree program, UF Online, is ranked as the standalone #1 Best Online Bachelor's Program in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, and

26 WHEREAS, according to Degree Choices Best College rankings,
 27 the University of Florida ranks second nationally among public
 28 universities and fourth among all public and private
 29 universities for students' economic return, leading students to
 30 greater financial security, and

31 WHEREAS, U.S. News & World Report ranked the University of
 32 Florida on the prestigious list of the nation's most innovative
 33 schools, which recognizes those schools that are making the most
 34 innovative improvements in curriculum, faculty, students, campus
 35 life, technology, or facilities, and

36 WHEREAS, the University of Florida ranks first among public
 37 universities and second nationwide in a report by Heartland
 38 Forward that evaluates which universities in the country are
 39 best at moving new discoveries from the laboratory into the real
 40 world through research commercialization and through Science,
 41 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) graduates, and

42 WHEREAS, for the 2022-2023 academic year, 11 University of
 43 Florida students were selected for Fulbright awards, and for the
 44 first time in 10 years, the United States Department of State
 45 Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs named the University
 46 of Florida a Fulbright Top Producing Institution for U.S.
 47 Students, and

48 WHEREAS, the University of Florida has installed HiPerGator
 49 AI, one of higher education's most powerful supercomputers, for
 50 artificial intelligence training and research purposes and is

51 | the first institution to adopt an "AI Across the Curriculum"
52 | model so that every student, regardless of discipline, gains at
53 | least a basic familiarity with how artificial intelligence will
54 | meet societal needs ranging from health care to education and
55 | national security, and

56 | WHEREAS, the University of Florida, in partnership with the
57 | State of Florida and industry leaders, is helping lead the way
58 | in developing an AI-skilled workforce of tomorrow by designing a
59 | framework for AI coursework in Florida's K-12 schools, with the
60 | goal of increasing students' knowledge of how AI operates and is
61 | used in their everyday lives, and

62 | WHEREAS, UF Health is a top-ranked health care destination
63 | that attracts some of the brightest students, scholars,
64 | scientists, and health care providers, all ready to tackle
65 | patients' greatest challenges and being uniquely positioned to
66 | be at the forefront of medicine, making discoveries that lead to
67 | clinical breakthroughs, and

68 | WHEREAS, with five pediatric specialties earning the elite
69 | distinction of being rated among the nation's best by U.S. News
70 | & World Report, UF Health Shands Children's Hospital continues
71 | to be one of the Southeast's premier pediatric medical centers,
72 | ranking as Florida's #1 children's hospital, and

73 | WHEREAS, with the integration of Scripps Research Institute
74 | into the University of Florida, the Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps
75 | Institute for Biomedical Innovation & Technology blends the

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76 | clinical expertise of a top-five public university with the
77 | creative energies of one of the world's leading biomedical
78 | research organizations, which can accelerate discoveries that
79 | benefit patients, NOW, THEREFORE,

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81 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
82 | Florida:

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84 | That the University of Florida is commended and
85 | congratulated for its dedication to the advancement of the State
86 | of Florida and that April 12, 2023, is designated as "Gator Day"
87 | in Florida.

88 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
89 | presented to University of Florida President Dr. Ben Sasse as a
90 | tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.