

By Senator Perry

9-01861-24

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the University of Florida and designating February 14, 2024, as "Gator Day" at the Capitol.

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the nation's top public university, ranked first among all public institutions by the *Wall Street Journal* based on value, graduation rates, and student-to-faculty ratios, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida conducted a record \$1.25 billion in research over the last year, funding new health care discoveries, scientific exploration, agricultural studies, and technological advancements, and

WHEREAS, UF Health Shands Hospital has nine medical specialties ranked in the top 50 nationwide, including five adult and four children's specialties, with top doctors, researchers, and health care workers caring for patients from across the state and nation, and

WHEREAS, the university's College of Veterinary Medicine has launched the first open-heart surgery program in the nation to treat dogs requiring a mitral valve repair – a step above any other veterinary institution of higher learning, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is at the forefront of education in artificial intelligence, offering all students the Fundamentals of AI course and access to an AI pathways career coach and supporting K-12 AI education programs so that students and faculty benefit from the latest technology and research, and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences conducted a record-breaking \$300 million

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30 in research projects in fiscal year 2023, representing an 8  
31 percent increase from the previous year and a historic level of  
32 funding that supports Florida's agricultural and natural  
33 resources research, and

34 WHEREAS, the University of Florida Office of the President,  
35 under the leadership of President Ben Sasse, announced in fall  
36 2023 numerous strategic funding projects totaling more than \$29  
37 million for 36 innovative research projects designed to advance  
38 the student experience and interdisciplinary scholarship across  
39 the university, and

40 WHEREAS, the Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for  
41 Biomedical Innovation and Technology has yielded more than \$3.2  
42 billion in economic impact within its first 20 years of  
43 operation and continues to make advancements that benefit human  
44 health and improve technology, and

45 WHEREAS, the UF Health Cancer Center was recently  
46 designated as a National Cancer Institute Designated Cancer  
47 Center due to its quality of care, high standards, and cutting-  
48 edge research that gives patients the best outcomes and  
49 treatment, as well as additional funding to further enhance care  
50 and attract world-class clinicians and researchers, and

51 WHEREAS, the university's Herbert Wertheim College of  
52 Engineering established the Florida Semiconductor Institute to  
53 lead the state in the creation and development of microchips  
54 that are vital to our society, a step toward bringing  
55 manufacturing back to the United States and advancing research  
56 and technology to sustain the semiconductor industry, and

57 WHEREAS, the university's College of Agricultural and Life  
58 Sciences has more staff with United States Department of

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59 Agriculture teaching awards than any other land-grant  
60 institution, an exceptional achievement indicative of the  
61 college's commitment to the success of its students beyond the  
62 classroom, and

63 WHEREAS, UF Health Shands Children's Hospital has earned a  
64 prestigious designation as a Level 1 center for pediatric trauma  
65 care due to its fulfillment of the American College of Surgeons  
66 standards for staff, resources, and equipment to ensure the  
67 highest quality of treatment for children facing life-  
68 threatening emergencies, and

69 WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a designated Yellow  
70 Ribbon school due to its uniquely supportive academic and  
71 financial resources for veterans through the Office of Student  
72 Veteran Success and the UF Collegiate Veterans Success Center,  
73 which are dedicated to supporting those who have served, and

74 WHEREAS, UF Health has just concluded a 7-year, \$44 million  
75 improvement and expansion of facilities at the Proton Therapy  
76 Institute to increase the number of rooms and personal treatment  
77 options for cancer patients, which will draw patients and  
78 researchers from across the state and nation, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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82 That the University of Florida is commended and  
83 congratulated for its dedication to the advancement of the State  
84 of Florida, and that February 14, 2024, is designated as "Gator  
85 Day" at the Capitol.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
87 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to University of

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88 Florida President Dr. Ben Sasse as a tangible token of the  
89 sentiments of the Florida Senate.