

By Senator Gruters

22-03049-24

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Senate Resolution

A resolution designating February 7, 2024, as "New College Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, New College is designated as the residential liberal arts honors college of this state and is the only public college or university in this state whose distinctive mission is to provide a liberal arts undergraduate education of the highest caliber to qualified students from around the world, and

WHEREAS, New College's new *logos/techne* curriculum combines classical education with next-generation skills to create a culture of intellectually curious students pursuing academic excellence and seeking a better understanding of the world within an educational environment of free speech and academic freedom, and

WHEREAS, the New College academic system rewards risk taking and ambition through its individualized contract system for registration; develops skills in independent study and initiative through tutorials, independent study projects, and a required senior thesis; and encourages students not to passively receive information, but to engage and innovate, and

WHEREAS, New College has earned top rankings from *Forbes*, *The Princeton Review*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Fiske Guide to Colleges*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and others as one of the nation's premier public liberal arts colleges, and it is also a national leader in Fulbright Scholarship recipients, and

WHEREAS, New College enrolled its largest incoming class of first-year and transfer students last fall and has successfully recruited new faculty to enhance the quality and quantity of

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30 sought-after courses, including the addition of several
31 excellent visiting professors and presidential scholars-in-
32 residence, and

33 WHEREAS, New College added intercollegiate athletics and
34 has been accepted to the National Association of Intercollegiate
35 Athletics (NAIA) as a full member of the Sun Conference,
36 adopting the mascot "The Mighty Banyan" and recruiting more than
37 150 scholar-athletes to field six varsity sports teams, with
38 additional sports planned for 2024-2025 and continued growth
39 projected in the years ahead, and

40 WHEREAS, New College recently announced plans to establish
41 a Freedom Institute to foster free speech and the sharing of
42 ideas and to combat cancel culture by promoting tolerance of
43 opposing views and engaging such views in civil discourse, and

44 WHEREAS, New College has begun the process of redefining
45 what it means to be a liberal arts college, and it will take a
46 concerted, multiyear effort in collaboration with support from
47 the Legislature, Governor Ron DeSantis, and all statewide
48 stakeholders to reestablish the college's preeminence, NOW,
49 THEREFORE,

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

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53 That February 7, 2024, is designated as "New College Day"
54 in Florida in recognition of New College's contribution as an
55 outstanding institution of higher education.