

By Senator Jones

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's contributions as an outstanding institution of higher education and designating April 9, 2025, 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, designated a college in 1909, and designated a university in 1953, and

WHEREAS, the university is composed of 100 undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate, and professional degree programs, 7 colleges, and 7 schools, including the Colleges of Agriculture and Food Sciences; Education; Engineering; Law; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Science and Technology; and Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities; and 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 dedicated leadership of FAMU Interim President Timothy Beard, Ph.D., along with the FAMU Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students, FAMU rose in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2024-2025 "Top 100" National Public Universities rankings from No. 91 just a year ago to No. 81, is ranked 20th on the Social Mobility Index, remains the No. 1 ranked public HBCU for the sixth consecutive year, and is ranked 3rd among all public and private HBCUs in the country, and

WHEREAS, with more than 9,300 students enrolled for the

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2024-2025 academic year, FAMU experienced a record number of applications, exceeding 24,300 in a single year with nearly 21,000 first-time-in-college applicants, and

WHEREAS, FAMU supports student success through increased funding and initiatives, garnering proven results in graduation rates and degree productivity, awarding more than 2,100 degrees during the 2023-2024 academic year, and

WHEREAS, the dynamic FAMU Marching "100" was named "Band of the Year" by ESPN in the 2024 HBCU National Championship, a symbol of artistic achievement and community pride, inspiring the next generation, and was honored by the Leon County Commission for the award, and

WHEREAS, this year, retired and acclaimed FAMU Marching "100" director Dr. Julian E. White was the second African-American director to be inducted into the National Band Association's Hall of Fame, with the first being FAMU Marching "100" founder Dr. William P. Foster, and

WHEREAS, with 14 National Collegiate Athletic Association programs, FAMU Athletics had a stellar year of wins in sports, including the FAMU Women's Volleyball Team winning the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship; Sara Rakim winning the SWAC Women's Tennis Fall Tournament and participating in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Fall Tournament; the assistant coach of the FAMU Women's Volleyball Team, Gokhan Yilmaz, being named the SWAC Coach of the Year; FAMU football quarterback Daniel Richardson being named the SWAC "Newcomer of the Year"; and the FAMU Men's Basketball Team, under the leadership of Coach Patrick Crarey II, securing its first-ever SWAC Tournament win, and

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59 WHEREAS, FAMU is dedicated to maintaining its commitment in  
60 honoring FAMU's most treasured and esteemed alumni, including  
61 renaming city streets after legendary football coach Rudy  
62 Hubbard, esteemed educators and community pillars Dr. Carolyn  
63 Ryals and E. Lillian Spencer, and an on-campus city street after  
64 iconic and legendary tennis athlete, Althea Gibson, who, in  
65 1980, was among the first women inducted into the International  
66 Women's Sports Hall of Fame, solidifying her legacy in sports  
67 history, NOW, THEREFORE,

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69 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:  
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71 That, in recognition of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
72 University's contributions as an outstanding institution of  
73 higher education, April 9, 2025, is designated as "FAMU Day" in  
74 Florida.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
76 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Dr. Timothy  
77 Beard, Interim President of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
78 University, as a tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida  
79 Senate.