

By Senator Simon

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## Senate Resolution

A resolution commending Florida State University for its achievements as a national leader in academics, research, and student excellence and designating January 21, 2026, as "FSU Day at the Capitol."

WHEREAS, the Tallahassee campus of Florida State University (FSU) was founded in 1851 as the West Florida Seminary and is the oldest continuous site of higher education in Florida, and

WHEREAS, FSU will celebrate its 175th anniversary in 2026 with a yearlong commemoration to honor its heritage, celebrate its achievements, and highlight its vision for the future, and

WHEREAS, FSU has been recognized as a preeminent research university by the State of Florida and offers 277 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and professional degrees across 17 colleges, with an enrollment of more than 46,000 students, who are supported by over 18,000 full and part-time faculty and staff, and

WHEREAS, FSU is ranked as the No. 1 public university for long-term study abroad enrollments, with a global footprint that includes study centers in London, Florence, Valencia, and Panama, and

WHEREAS, under President Richard McCullough's leadership, FSU has reached new heights in national recognition, rising to No. 21 among public universities and achieving its record overall ranking of No. 51 among all institutions, public and private, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, and Niche ranks FSU No. 11 among its Top Public Universities in America, with multiple academic programs ranked in the national top 10, and

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30        WHEREAS, FSU is recognized as a national leader in student  
31 success, with a 97 percent first-year student retention rate, a  
32 78 percent 4-year graduation rate, and an 80 percent transfer  
33 student graduation rate, the best in the history of the State  
34 University System of Florida, and

35        WHEREAS, FSU's first-year student cohort admitted for  
36 summer and fall 2025 is one of the brightest in the university's  
37 history, with students representing all 67 Florida counties, 46  
38 states, and 34 countries and entering FSU with an average GPA of  
39 4.4, an average SAT score of 1395, and an average ACT score of  
40 31.5, and 78 percent of the cohort were among the top 10 percent  
41 of their high school class, and

42        WHEREAS, FSU faculty achieved a record \$487 million in  
43 research expenditures in 2025 and submitted more than \$1.22  
44 billion in competitive grant proposals, expanding discovery in  
45 areas of strategic importance to this state and to America's  
46 innovation agenda, including quantum science, superconductivity,  
47 artificial intelligence, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing,  
48 and

49        WHEREAS, FSU Health is advancing a transformative vision to  
50 integrate education, research, and patient care to improve lives  
51 through initiatives such as FSU's Institute for Pediatric Rare  
52 Diseases and Sunshine Genetics Pilot Program, demonstrating  
53 leadership and strengthening collaboration to address critical  
54 health challenges, and

55        WHEREAS, in 1990, FSU was awarded the National High  
56 Magnetic Field Laboratory, the only national laboratory in this  
57 state and home to the most powerful magnets in the world,  
58 facilitating major scientific breakthroughs and adding

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59 significant economic benefit to this state, and

60 WHEREAS, FSU's contributions generate an estimated \$15.5  
61 billion in statewide economic impact each year, strengthening  
62 Florida's workforce, expanding opportunities, and improving  
63 lives across every region, and

64 WHEREAS, FSU is honored to share a special relationship  
65 with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, which is built on respect,  
66 trust, and collaboration and which celebrates the tribe's rich  
67 history and culture while supporting educational opportunities  
68 and initiatives that strengthen this enduring partnership, and

69 WHEREAS, FSU boasts a network of more than 419,000 alumni  
70 who are making a difference in their communities across this  
71 state and around the world, affirming the university's  
72 commitment to producing graduates who lead and serve, and

73 WHEREAS, in 2025, the FSU women's soccer team won its fifth  
74 national championship, the baseball, beach volleyball, and men's  
75 and women's golf teams are ranked in the top 10 nationally, and  
76 FSU's student athletes achieved a record 91 percent graduation  
77 success rate, NOW, THEREFORE,

78  
79 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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81 That January 21, 2026, is designated "FSU Day at the  
82 Capitol" in recognition of Florida State University's  
83 contribution as an outstanding institution of higher education.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with  
85 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Dr. Richard  
86 McCullough, the 16th President of Florida State University, as a  
87 tangible token of the sentiments of the Florida Senate.