

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

3-01877-26

20261768__

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

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

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

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

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

3-01877-26

20261768__

significant economic benefit to this state, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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