

HR 8019

2026

## House Resolution

A resolution designating February 4, 2026, as "New College Day" in Florida.

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

WHEREAS, New College's *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 creates students who do not passively receive information but who engage, innovate, and learn to ask the right questions, and

WHEREAS, New College has earned top rankings from *Washington Monthly*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *College Raptor*, and others as one of the nation's premier public liberal arts

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26 colleges, and it also had two Fulbright scholarship recipients  
27 in the 2024-2025 academic year, and

28 WHEREAS, New College reached a total enrollment of more  
29 than 900 students for the first time in the college's history in  
30 Fall 2025 and has successfully recruited 65 new faculty members,  
31 including several prestigious visiting professors and  
32 Presidential Scholars in Residence, in order to maintain the  
33 school's best-in-state 8:1 student-to-faculty ratio, and

34 WHEREAS, an independent economic impact analysis found that  
35 New College has become a powerful engine for regional  
36 prosperity, with an economic impact of more than \$200 million  
37 per year, and

38 WHEREAS, New College added intercollegiate athletics and  
39 was accepted to the National Association of Intercollegiate  
40 Athletics (NAIA) as a full member of the Sun Conference,  
41 adopting the mascot "The Mighty Banyan" and fielding 24 sports  
42 teams, and

43 WHEREAS, New College believes in teaching students not what  
44 to think but how to think, focusing on developing students'  
45 ability to reason, question, write, analyze, and innovate, which  
46 is essential in an age of rapid technological change, global  
47 competition, and information overload, NOW, THEREFORE,

48  
49 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
50 Florida:

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52       That February 4, 2026, is designated as "New College Day"  
53       in Florida in recognition of New College's contribution as this  
54       state's residential honors college and an outstanding  
55       institution of higher education.