

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 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 *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

HR 8019

2026

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

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

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

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

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

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

HR 8019

2026

51  
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.