

HR 8049

2019

## House Resolution

1  
2 A resolution congratulating Indian River State College  
3 on winning the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College  
4 Excellence.  
5

6 WHEREAS, on April 2, 2019, the Aspen Institute, an  
7 educational and policy studies organization based in Washington,  
8 D.C., honored Indian River State College with the 2019 Aspen  
9 Prize for Community College Excellence, one of the most  
10 prestigious awards for high achievement and performance among  
11 the nation's community colleges, and

12 WHEREAS, Indian River State College was selected from a  
13 pool of 1,000 community colleges across the country after a  
14 rigorous review of data, strategies, and outcomes related to  
15 student learning, degree and certificate completion, rates of  
16 graduate employment, earnings for graduates, and levels of  
17 access and rates of success for minorities and low-income  
18 students, and

19 WHEREAS, according to the Aspen Institute, Indian River  
20 State College stands out as one of the nation's top community  
21 colleges for many reasons, including a 56 percent transfer rate  
22 compared to the 32 percent national average and a 52 percent  
23 bachelor's attainment rate for students who go on to pursue a  
24 bachelor's degree compared to the 42 percent national average,  
25 and

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26 WHEREAS, the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence,  
27 awarded every two years and generously funded by ECMC  
28 Foundation, Joyce Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, and Siemens  
29 Foundation, is a tribute to the people of Indian River State  
30 College and the outstanding communities the college serves, and

31 WHEREAS, according to Dr. Edwin R. Massey, president of  
32 Indian River State College, "IRSC is enriched with some of the  
33 most incredible people supporting our college mission, and this  
34 distinct honor validates their commitment on a national level.  
35 Bringing home the Aspen Prize is truly a celebration of their  
36 hard work," and

37 WHEREAS, Indian River State College's commitment to student  
38 success was further underscored during the 2017-2018 academic  
39 year by the college's graduating class of 3,951 students, the  
40 largest graduating class in the college's 58-year history, and  
41 by the extraordinary 94 percent rate of graduates who continue  
42 their education or find employment, typically earning more than  
43 twice the average entry wage in the four-county area, and

44 WHEREAS, Indian River State College is also recognized for  
45 its commitment to equitable access for underserved groups and  
46 has been ranked the third most affordable college in the country  
47 by the United States Department of Education, with no tuition  
48 increase in six years, NOW, THEREFORE,

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50 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
51 | Florida:

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53 |         That Indian River State College is hereby congratulated on  
54 | winning the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence  
55 | and recognized for its commitment to student success.

56 |         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
57 | presented to the president of Indian River State College, Dr.  
58 | Edwin R. Massey, as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed  
59 | herein.