

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating January 28, 2020, as "Florida
3 Gulf Coast University Day" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, in May 1991, then-Governor Lawton Chiles signed
6 into law a bill passed by the Florida Legislature authorizing
7 the creation of Florida's tenth public university, Florida Gulf
8 Coast University (FGCU), to provide higher education
9 opportunities and workforce development in the previously
10 underserved region of Southwest Florida, and

11 WHEREAS, FGCU opened its doors to students on August 25,
12 1997, and held its first commencement in May 1998 with 81
13 graduates, and

14 WHEREAS, FGCU has been led by four outstanding and dynamic
15 presidents: President Roy McTarnaghan, President William C.
16 Merwin, President Wilson G. Bradshaw, and President Michael V.
17 Martin, and

18 WHEREAS, with the leadership and vision of Dr. Michael V.
19 Martin and the FGCU Board of Trustees, FGCU students have a
20 clear pathway to success and the university is committed to
21 maintaining college affordability, and

22 WHEREAS, FGCU's top priority is student success, which
23 includes a strong focus on providing the necessary academic
24 resources and laboratory facilities to timely complete degrees
25 from one of the five colleges providing relevant programs with

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26 | an accomplished faculty and dedicated staff to help students
27 | prepare for successful careers and meet regional and statewide
28 | workforce needs, and

29 | WHEREAS, FGCU has strategically grown into a regional
30 | university of 15,000 students and today offers 58 undergraduate,
31 | 25 graduate, and 6 doctoral programs, and

32 | WHEREAS, FGCU's pathways to student success have led to
33 | achieving national prominence in academics, environmental
34 | sustainability, and student service learning, with approximately
35 | 3 million hours contributed to the Southwest Florida community
36 | since 1997, and

37 | WHEREAS, FGCU emphasizes innovative and interdisciplinary
38 | learning, using the region as a living laboratory while offering
39 | students diverse opportunities to participate in meaningful
40 | research led by their professors, and

41 | WHEREAS, breaking ground on a new academic building in
42 | November 2019, FGCU has established a home for The Water School,
43 | a University of Distinction program that will provide FGCU the
44 | foundation to become a leader in the area of water, focusing on
45 | issues to address challenges throughout the world, and

46 | WHEREAS, FGCU has established the School of
47 | Entrepreneurship, bringing students from all disciplines
48 | together to develop products and business plans in a real-world
49 | setting, which was recognized by the Princeton Review as the
50 | best such school in Florida and thirtieth in the nation, and

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51 WHEREAS, FGCU strives to bring diversification of the
52 economy to the region it serves through innovation in
53 agribusiness, construction management, hydrology, environmental
54 engineering, and public health, and

55 WHEREAS, FGCU serves and engages its surrounding community,
56 offering a wealth of enrichment opportunities that include the
57 FGCU Research Roadshow, visual arts, music, theater, and public
58 radio and television, and

59 WHEREAS, FGCU's athletics programs continue to be a growing
60 source of pride for their loyal fans with student-athletes
61 continuing to demonstrate their academic strengths, and

62 WHEREAS, the collegiate experience continues to enrich the
63 lives of FGCU students and serve the surrounding community
64 through "The FGCU Effect" and the university's longstanding
65 commitment to promoting racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity
66 on campus, NOW, THEREFORE,

67

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

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71 That January 28, 2020, is designated as "Florida Gulf Coast
72 University Day" in Florida.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
74 presented to Michael V. Martin, Ph.D., president of Florida Gulf

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75 | Coast University as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed
76 | herein.