

By Senator Gruters

22-02352-26

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Senate Resolution

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

WHEREAS, New College of Florida is designated as the residential liberal arts honors college of this state and is the only public college or university in Florida with the sole, distinctive mission of providing a liberal arts undergraduate education of the highest caliber to its students, and

WHEREAS, New College of Florida's Logos + Techne General Education 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 of Florida academic system rewards risk-taking and ambition through its individualized contract system; 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 of Florida has solidified its status as one of the nation's premier public liberal arts institutions, having been ranked the top public liberal arts college by *Washington Monthly* 3 years in a row, and the top public college for value and small size by *The Princeton Review*, and

WHEREAS, New College of Florida continues to be recognized as a national leader in Fulbright Scholarship recipients and has

22-02352-26

20261782__

been named the best Hidden Gem College in Florida by College Raptor, and the No. 1 liberal arts college in Florida for 2026 and No. 10 among all public liberal arts colleges in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*, and

WHEREAS, New College of Florida set a record in fall 2025 with a total enrollment of more than 900 students for the first time in the college's history, and

WHEREAS, to support this unprecedented growth and maintain its elite academic standards, the college recruited 65 new world-class faculty members, including prestigious visiting professors and presidential scholars-in-residence, thereby ensuring the preservation of New College's best-in-state 8-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio, and

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

WHEREAS, New College of Florida's acceptance into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics as a full member of the Sun Conference launched an athletics program that has quickly grown to 24 sports, and

WHEREAS, New College of Florida pursues the simple belief of teaching students how to think, not what to think, and in an age of rapid technological change, global competition, and information overload, New College knows students' ability to reason, question, write, and analyze is relevant and essential, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

22-02352-26

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That February 4, 2026, is designated as "New College Day" in Florida in recognition of New College of Florida's contributions as Florida's residential honors college and an outstanding institution of higher education.