

House Resolution

A resolution designating April 13, 2023, as "FAMU Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Florida's only public historically black college and university (HBCU), was founded on October 3, 1887, named a land-grant institution in 1891, and designated a university in 1953, and

WHEREAS, academic components of the university consist of 98 undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate, and professional degree programs, 7 colleges, and 7 schools, including the colleges of Agriculture and Food Sciences; Education; Engineering; Law; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Science and Technology; and Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities; and the schools of Allied Health Sciences; Architecture and Engineering Technology; Business and Industry; the Environment; Graduate Studies and Research; Journalism and Graphic Communication; and Nursing, and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., FAMU's twelfth president; the FAMU Board of Trustees; and faculty and staff, FAMU continues its "March Toward the Top 100 National Public Schools" and is currently ranked at 103 and has been the highest ranked public HBCU for the past 4 years

25 | according to the *U.S. News & World Report* 2022-2023 Best
 26 | Colleges rankings, and

27 | WHEREAS, with more than 9,000 students, FAMU has
 28 | experienced a record number of first-time-in-college
 29 | applications, exceeding 20,000, and the admitted students for
 30 | Fall 2023 currently have an average high school GPA of 3.96, and

31 | WHEREAS, FAMU strives to elevate student success outcomes
 32 | including retention and graduation rates, and in the 2021-2022
 33 | academic year awarded 2,284 degrees, and

34 | WHEREAS, FAMU continues its commitment to community service
 35 | as evidenced by receipt of a federal grant from the Department
 36 | of Commerce to reduce the digital divide between FAMU's main
 37 | campus and Tallahassee's Southside, and

38 | WHEREAS, the faculty and staff of FAMU garnered a record
 39 | \$75 million in research funding in 2021-2022 and led the HBCU
 40 | community in nonmedical school research funding expenditures
 41 | exceeding \$59 million during the same period, and

42 | WHEREAS, with 14 National Collegiate Athletic Association
 43 | (NCAA) programs, FAMU celebrates the second Rattler to be
 44 | honored as an inductee into the Pro Football Hall of Fame,
 45 | former FAMU Athletic Director Ken Riley, who was the Cincinnati
 46 | Bengals' 1969 sixth round pick and recorded 65 interceptions in
 47 | his career, the fifth most in National Football League history,
 48 | and

49 WHEREAS, the FAMU Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit
 50 Research, by United States Department of Agriculture charter,
 51 maintains the world's most extensive muscadine grape germplasm
 52 collection and serves as one of five National Clean Plant
 53 Centers for Grapes, and, utilizing the close industry-clientele
 54 partnership, the economically feasible and accelerated breeding
 55 pipeline has allowed the release of three new patented American
 56 native grape cultivars, Floriana, Florida Onyx, and Blanc du
 57 Soleil, in the last 2 years, and

58 WHEREAS, the FAMU Marching 100 and the FAMU Symphonic Band
 59 Wind Ensemble perform for audiences all over the world, from
 60 Paris, France to Miami, Florida, and

61 WHEREAS, the FAMU Women's Volleyball team defeated a top-
 62 seed opponent for the 2022 Southwestern Athletic Conference
 63 Women's Volleyball Tournament Championship for the second year
 64 in a row, NOW, THEREFORE,

65
 66 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 67 Florida:

68
 69 That in recognition of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
 70 University's contributions as an outstanding institution of
 71 higher education, April 13, 2023, is designated as "FAMU Day" in
 72 Florida.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be

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2023

74 | presented to Larry Robinson, Ph.D., President of Florida
75 | Agricultural and Mechanical University, as a tangible token of
76 | the sentiments expressed herein.