

By Senator Negrón

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and Board of Trustees of Indian River State College as they celebrate "50 Years of Innovation" as an institution of higher learning in Florida.

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature approved the creation of Indian River Junior College and Lincoln Junior College in 1959, establishing the first institutions of higher education on Florida's Treasure Coast in 1960, and

WHEREAS, the two institutions merged in 1965, and governance of Indian River Junior College shifted in 1968 from the local school board to a district board of trustees, concurrent with the addition of occupational and adult education programs and, in 1970, resulting in the renaming of the expanded institution as Indian River Community College, and

WHEREAS, Indian River Community College began to expand educational access in the region by establishing four branch campuses, the Mueller Campus in Vero Beach in 1976, the Chastain Campus in Stuart in 1982, the Dixon Hendry Campus in Okeechobee in 1986, and, in 1992, the St. Lucie West Campus in Port St. Lucie, a rapidly growing joint campus with Florida Atlantic University, and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the institution was granted authority to confer baccalaureate degrees in education, nursing, organizational management, health care management, and public safety administration, and was renamed Indian River State College, and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, Indian River State College

28-03957-10

20102830__

30 has encouraged excellence both in and out of the classroom, with
31 consistently strong student representation on the All-Florida
32 Academic Team and achieving international recognition for the
33 swimming and diving team's National Championship winning streak,
34 which is the longest current winning streak in any
35 intercollegiate competition, at any level, and

36 WHEREAS, Indian River State College is fundamentally
37 committed to the advancement of science, technology, education,
38 and math, leading the charge in the transition of the region
39 into the "Research Coast" by creating a skilled workforce and
40 helping to attract life science, digital media, and other
41 emerging technology firms, and

42 WHEREAS, Indian River State College has been honored for 3
43 consecutive years as the nation's top community college in
44 technology by the American Association of Community Colleges,
45 and now offers more than 100 programs leading to bachelor's
46 degrees, associate degrees, technical certificates, and applied
47 technology diplomas, and

48 WHEREAS, Indian River State College remains fully committed
49 to the mission of positively impacting lives by "making
50 possibilities a reality," and

51 WHEREAS, more than 35,000 students annually and more than a
52 million students during the past half century have walked
53 through the open doors of Indian River State College, increasing
54 their earning power and improving their quality of life, and

55 WHEREAS, the past 50 years have witnessed Indian River
56 State College's evolution into a dominant educational,
57 technical, and cultural center on Florida's Treasure Coast,
58 providing innovative leadership in the areas of economic

28-03957-10

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59 development, workforce responsiveness, high-quality, affordable
60 education, and, most importantly, student success, NOW,
61 THEREFORE,

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

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65 That the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and Board of
66 Trustees of Indian River State College are congratulated on the
67 occasion of their Golden Anniversary and in the celebration of
68 "50 Years of Innovation."

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
70 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Indian River
71 State College President Edwin R. Massey as a tangible token of
72 the sentiments of the Florida Senate.