STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020 - 1038

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Artificial Intelligence Partnership at the University of Florida

AUTHOR(S): Senator Marcus Nelson

SPONSOR(S): Senator Bryan Momin, Senator Nagarajan Rajagopal, Senator Richa Bhavsar, Senator Catherine Fabiano

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant public research university founded in 1853; and,

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2020, the University announced a public-private partnership with NVIDIA to develop an artificial intelligence research initiative that will work to address some of the world's most formidable challenges, create unprecedented access to AI training and tools for underrepresented communities, and build momentum for transforming the future of the workforce [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the initiative is supported by a $50 million gift, including $25 million from UF alumnus Chris Malachowsky and $25 million in hardware, software, training and services from NVIDIA, a world leader in AI and accelerated computing; and,

WHEREAS, Chris Malachowsky graduated from the University of Florida in 1983 with a degree in electrical engineering, and in 1993 co-founded NVIDIA with Jen-Hsun Huang and Curtis Priem [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the initiative will create an AI-centric data center that houses the world's fastest AI supercomputer in higher education. This will give faculty and students within and beyond UF the tools to apply artificial intelligence across a multitude of areas to improve lives, bolster industry, and create economic growth across the state of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, HiPerGator is the University of Florida's research supercomputer, which as part of its third-generation upgrade will gain access to NVIDIA's most advanced AI software [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida will be the first institution of higher learning in the United States to receive NVIDIA DGX A100 systems, which will be integrated into HiPerGator, along with the NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD architecture; and,

WHEREAS, the partnership will be central to UF's vision to be a national leader in the application of AI, including an expansive plan to elevate its reach and impact in research, teaching, and economic development. The deployment of AI across the curriculum, will address major challenges such as rising seas, aging populations, data security, personalized medicine, urban transportation and food insecurity; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate commends UF alumni Chris Malachowsky for his efforts in making the University a leader in artificial intelligence and his contributions to the field of computing.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the partnership between the University and NVIDIA to make UF a national leader in artificial intelligence.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate expresses its support for the initiatives that this partnership and its associated technology will enable.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, College of Engineering Dean Cammy Abernathy. Director of Research Computing Erik Deumens, and Student Body President Trevor Pope.

[1] https://news.ufl.edu/2020/07/nvidia-partnership/
[2] https://nvidianews.nvidia.com/bios/chris-a-malachowsky
[3] https://www.rc.ufl.edu/services/hipergator/