

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1038

TITLE: Resolution Commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month 2022

AUTHOR(S): Senator Oscar Santiago

SPONSOR(S): Deputy Minority Leader Gabriela Montes, Senator Cassandra Urbenz, Senator Grace Shoemaker

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the history, culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans to the United States starting on September 15 and ending on October 15 [1], and

WHEREAS, the celebration started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week and was later expanded to a month-long celebration in 1988 [1], and

WHEREAS, September 15th was chosen as the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month because it marks the Independence Date for multiple Latin American countries – Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua [2], and

WHEREAS, in the 2020 census, 62.1 million people identified as Hispanic or Latinx, constituting 18% of the U.S. population [2], and

WHEREAS, Hispanic and Latinx Americans make up the largest minority group within the University of Florida, composing 20.85% of the student population, as of 2021 [3], and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic Student Association (HSA) at UF was founded in 1985 with the mission of “serving and representing the Hispanic and Latino community at the University of Florida” [4], and

WHEREAS, HSA has a number of affiliate organizations which represent a variety of different ethnicities and academic or extracurricular interests [5], and

WHEREAS, Hispanic-Latinx Heritage Month (HLHM) at the University of Florida was founded in 1993 and hosts student-run events to commemorate the contributions of Hispanic and Latinx people to the University of Florida and surrounding Gainesville community [6], and

WHEREAS, HLHM is planning to host a series of events throughout Hispanic Heritage Month, beginning with its Opening Ceremony on September 16, 2022 and concludes with its Closing Ceremony on October 14, 2022 [7], then

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate proclaims September 15th to October 15th as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the work done by the Hispanic Student Association and its affiliate organizations to promote greater Hispanic and Latinx culture and empowerment at the University

of Florida and in Gainesville.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages students to engage with the events that are hosted by Hispanic-Latinx Heritage Month at the University of Florida and with programming relating to Hispanic Heritage Month in the surrounding Gainesville community.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages students to celebrate the accomplishments of the Hispanic and Latinx community throughout history.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Vice President of Student Life Heather White, Student Body President Lauren Lemasters, Student Body Vice President Daniel Badell, Student Body Treasurer Sierra Kantamneni, Hispanic-Latinx Student Engagement Program Director Janet Meza, Gainesville City Mayor Lauren Poe, Hispanic Student Association President Maria Karla Leon, Hispanic Student Culture Organization President William Ortiz

[1] <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/>

[2] <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/15/us/hispanic-heritage-month-why-celebrate-2021/index.html>

[3] <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/facts/enrollment/>

[4] <https://www.ufhsa.com/copy-of-info>

[5] <https://www.ufhsa.com/branches>

[6] <https://www.ufhsa.com/hispanic-heritiage-month>

[7] https://www.instagram.com/uf_hlhm/