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UCF students make their voices heard in Tallahassee

ORLANDO, Fla. (March 28, 2017)— At 6:00 a.m. tomorrow 55 UCF students will head to Tallahassee to discuss key issues pertaining to the UCF student body and higher education in Florida with elected officials and their staffers.

Day at the Capitol is UCF SGA's largest annual direct advocacy program. Students sit in the Tallahassee offices of their state senators and state representatives to explain and discuss SGA's legislative agenda in benefit of the Student Body. This year, students will discuss the Excess Credit Hour Surcharge, the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, and Campus Health & Safety resources.

"This year's legislative priorities are expansion of Bright Futures to the summer, modifications to the excess credit hour surcharge and the approval of the Board of Governors Legislative Budget Requests for mental health and campus safety," said President, Chris Clemente. "These are issues that affect not just every Knight, but every student in the State University System. This year we travel to Tallahassee to make our voices heard and speak as one."

Day at the Capitol has been on the SGA event calendar for almost a decade. Students are able to speak directly to the results of Florida's higher education policy from their personal experience, and in doing so offer unique perspectives for legislators to consider while making policy decisions. Students can reaffirm the importance of programs, which have personally benefited them, but can also suggest changes to improve policies based on the issues they've faced.

"Students participating in Day at the Capitol exemplify the UCF Creed and serve as ambassadors for the entirety of the Student Body. Through their preparedness and professionalism, participants demonstrate our university's values in a positive light and share UCF's story. In doing so, participants engender the support of our state government," said Legislative Affairs Coordinator, Jeff Strange Jr.

In order for students to attend they had to submit an application and attend an orientation on March 21, 2017. The orientation assured that they were well versed on the university's legislative priorities and had adequate talking points to explain why these issues should matter to the state legislature.

SGA would like to give a special thanks to our event partners—the Alumni Association and University Relations.

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The UCF Student Government Association is a representative body modeled after the United States government. Through the three branches – executive, legislative and judicial – the UCF Student Government Association represents student issues and concerns at all levels of university decision-making. In addition, the UCF Student Government Association is constantly creating new services and initiatives aiming to make campus life better for all UCF Knights.

For more information regarding the service, please contact the Student Government Association at (407) 823-1122. All media requests can be directed towards Whitney Barnes, the Public Relations Specialist at sga_pr@ucf.edu.