



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

January 4, 2017

Dear President:

In honor of our brave first responders, I have proclaimed January 9-13, 2017, Florida First Responder Appreciation Week. I ask you and your students to show your gratitude for the brave men and women who serve our state's residents as first responders.

The Florida College System's 28 institutions provide Floridians with the opportunity to pursue their academic and career goals, and as a result of your leadership and our students' dedication, we have some of the best colleges in the nation. Many of your colleges offer outstanding programs that train students to be first responders, and those graduates have saved countless lives.

When Pulse Nightclub in Orlando was attacked during the early morning hours of Sunday, June 12, 2016, Florida's brave first responders put their lives on the line to rescue the injured and prevent an even more horrific tragedy. During hurricanes Hermine and Matthew, our brave men and women in uniform courageously rescued many Floridians, assisted with evacuations, and responded to the needs of communities. From law enforcement officers to fire fighters, paramedics, and emergency medical responders, there is always someone we can call upon to protect and help us and our families in an emergency. As a father and grandfather, I take comfort in this fact and I know that many of our state's residents share that sentiment.

As you and your professors prepare for the new school year, I encourage you to incorporate First Responders Appreciation Week into your campus activities and thank those students who are training to be, or are, active first responders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott".

Rick Scott  
Governor