

RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA REGARDING EFFORTS TO KEEP THE UNIVERSITY AND OUR GREATER COMMUNITY HEALTHY DURING THE PANDEMIC

WHEREAS through the two long years of the SARS-COVID-19 pandemic, over 1,400 volunteers and more than 100 employees drawn from faculty, staff, students and employees of University of Florida and UF Health provided tens of thousands of hours of service to test more than half a million people free of charge, to vaccinate nearly 70,000 people and to recommend safety measures, investigate cases, conduct contact tracing and public health education, and develop and implement new surveillance tools, to keep UF and its over 123,000 affiliates, and the greater community healthy; and

WHEREAS Screen, Test and Protect specifically reached out to serve the most vulnerable and least likely to receive needed services, conducting over 125 community-based vaccine events/clinics that reached farmworker communities, among others, and providing testing and emergency contact investigations of COVID outbreaks to regional nursing homes and retirement communities early in the pandemic when testing was not otherwise available; and

WHEREAS Screen, Test and Protect is a nationally recognized program, featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Huffington Post, and other National and state media outlets, because of the comprehensive and innovative approach used, and in National Academy of Sciences and National Institutes of Health national webcasts on best practices to control COVID on university campuses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate of the University of Florida formally expresses the gratitude of the UF faculty to all involved, such as University of Florida faculty, staff, and students, physicians, nurses, residents, and their families, and especially to the head of UF Health's Screen, Test and Protect program Dr. Michael Lauzardo and his extended team, for their herculean efforts, professionalism, rigor and dedication in serving UF and the greater community.