Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Act

UF Faculty Senate
August 30, 2012
Morrill Act

Signed into law by Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862:
“An Act Donating public lands to the several States and [Territories] which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the Mechanic arts”

- First example of federal aid to higher education
- Provided access to education for thousands of farmers and working people
- Was a launching point for American Public Education
First of three major acts

Three acts from 1862-1914, each introducing a new part of the mission

- **Morrill Act, 1862**: provide quality education (followed by 1890 and 1994 Acts)

- **Hatch Act, 1887**: conduct research and experimentation in the public interest

- **Smith-Lever Act, 1914**: disseminate results of research and support lifelong learning
Land Grant Idea

A social contract embodying the beliefs that

• Education should not belong to the elite
• Created knowledge should be used for societal good
• People should have the opportunity to learn throughout their lives

Revolutionary – emulated worldwide.
The land grant ideal is something to be proud of

The “land grant” is the entire campus...

• We are one of only a handful of comprehensive land grant schools nationwide

• IFAS is the heart and soul, but we have unprecedented collaborative opportunities

• Whereas others have marginalized the event, we have taken on the celebration as a whole campus
Land grant is all of us

Task force convened to plan a year of celebration that encompasses our entirety

– 45 task force members

– Encompasses nearly all colleges and schools, Athletics, ROTC, Libraries, Student Affairs, Gator Clubs (Alumni Association), UFF, among others!

– New connections and collaborations
The celebration

Exhibit as part of Smithsonian Folklife Festival

– One million viewers

– Highlighting Florida water issues
WATER

Water quality, quantity and access are global issues. Water flows above and below ground, connecting sources and spreading pollutants.

We depend on freshwater for:
- Supporting plant and animal life
- Household use and drinking water
- Agriculture and food production
- Landscaping and irrigation
- Power generation and industry
- Recreation

UF IN ACTION

UF addresses water issues through innovative research and education programs.

YOU CAN HELP

What we do everyday matters to our sustainable water future.
- Reduce water use
- Protect water sources
- Learn about the water you use
The celebration

Exhibit as part of Smithsonian Folklife Festival

– See it at end of September at University of Florida Museum of Natural History!
The celebration

A year of other events:

– Speakers
– Awards
– Symposia
– Homecoming
– TV and radio spots
Celebrating the *next* 150 years?

April 10-11 symposium on the future of land grant and public education:

- What does it mean to be the state’s land grant university?
- What future does/should the UF aim for?
- What is the future of the land grants, and indeed, public education in the U.S.?
Interested?

VISIT OR CONTACT:

landgrant.ufl.edu

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Let us know how you want to participate!
The University of Florida. A Grand Example of the Land-Grant University.

One year, four months and 17 days before Abraham Lincoln addressed a war-weary crowd at the dedication of a cemetery in Gettysburg, the President signed legislation that made an immediate and everlasting impact on the way people experience their lives. The Morrill Act established the land-grant university system and essentially initiated what could be defined as "The Education Revolution" that thrives to this day.

Some of the most highly regarded universities in the nation are land-grant institutions. The University of Florida is proud to be one of them.

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LAND-GRANT CELEBRATION VIDEO
(YouTube)
Thank you!