

Introduced by Council Member Lahnen:

RESOLUTION 2025-441

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA FOR ITS EXCEPTIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN WOMEN'S ATHLETICS AND RECOGNIZING THE STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES, AND STAFF FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE BOTH ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the University of North Florida (UNF) has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the advancement of women's sports, fostering a culture of achievement, integrity, and academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, exemplifying the balance of academic and athletic excellence, UNF's women student-athletes have achieved a remarkable cumulative GPA of 3.58, including 90 percent of its student-athletes achieving at least a 3.0 GPA, and 42 earning a perfect 4.0; and

WHEREAS, the UNF Athletic Department won the Atlantic Sun (ASUN) Conference's 2024-25 President's Academic Cup, and the ASUN Conference's highest APR award was due to the academic success of its student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, during the most recent athletic season, UNF women's teams secured 3 team championships and 4 individual championships, showcasing their competitive spirit and elite performance; and

WHEREAS, reflecting the depth of talent and leadership across programs, 42 women student-athletes were named All-Conference, 4 earned Player of the Year honors, and 2 were recognized as Scholar-Athletes of the Year; and

WHEREAS, setting new standards of excellence and inspiring

1 future generations, 3 women student-athletes received 8 All-American
2 selections, and 37 program records were broken; and

3 **WHEREAS,** softball standout, Allison Benning, earned many
4 honors for both her pitching and hitting abilities, she was named
5 ASUN Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, and
6 Player of the Year; Ms. Benning was also named Mid-Major Player of
7 the Year to go along with her All-American honors; and

8 **WHEREAS,** Zara Siassi became UNF's first All-American in
9 Women's Soccer during the 2024 season, and was also named the ASUN
10 Conference Defensive Player of the Year and Academic All-American;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS,** Smilla Kolbe became UNF's first NCAA Indoor Track
13 All-American when she finished 5th in the 800m at the National
14 Championships, she was also named the ASUN Conference Scholar-Athlete
15 of the Year and the ASUN Most Outstanding Track Performer of the
16 Year; and

17 **WHEREAS,** these accomplishments bring pride to the City of
18 Jacksonville and serve as a testament to the strength of collegiate
19 athletics in our community; now therefore

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

21 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby commends and
22 congratulates the University of North Florida for its extraordinary
23 success in women's sports, encourages continued support for women's
24 athletics, and celebrates the positive impact of these achievements
25 on the broader Jacksonville community. The City Council recognizes
26 UNF's women student-athletes, coaches, and support staff for their
27 hard work, perseverance, and contributions to the University and the
28 City.

29 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
30 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
31 without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

/s/ Shannon MacGillis

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

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