



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

WHEREAS, profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of work, placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of career and technical educators with business and industry stimulate the growth and vitality of our local economy and that of the entire nation, by preparing graduates for careers that are forecast to experience the largest and fastest growth in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education serves as the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce and contributes to America's leadership in the international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education provides Floridians with a school-to-careers connection, helping students experience practical and meaningful applications of any number of skills; and

WHEREAS, more than 595,000 secondary job preparation and postsecondary career and technical education students in Florida engage in this type of meaningful education; and

WHEREAS, secondary schools in all 67 school districts, all 28 Florida Colleges and 47 technical centers offer career and technical education courses; and

WHEREAS, more than 340,000 secondary CTE students are enrolled in one of over 1,800 registered Career and Professional Education Academies and more than 14,000 registered Career-Themed Courses and have earned almost 70,000 industry certifications; and

WHEREAS, over 8,000 secondary career and technical education teachers are inspiring students to succeed in college and careers; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education offers individuals lifelong opportunities to learn new skills, providing career choices and potential satisfaction;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of Florida do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing February 2016, as ***Career and Technical Education Month***.