

Office of the Mayor
Foley, Alabama
Proclamation

WHEREAS, all students must have an opportunity to reach their full potential and to realize their lifelong aspirations; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor estimates 90 percent of our nation's upcoming 21st Century careers will require employees to have postsecondary experience; and

WHEREAS, the college application process may be a barrier that could keep some high school students from pursuing postsecondary education—because of an absence of information or support; and

WHEREAS, obtaining a postsecondary degree is linked to higher income, better health, and even increased community involvement; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate *Alabama College Application Week* special activities, official proclamation ceremonies, and other events have been planned statewide; and

WHEREAS, only 31 percent of Alabama's working population (between the ages of 25-64) currently have an Associate's degree; and

WHEREAS, if this current trend continues, it is estimated that only about 38 percent of adults in Alabama will hold a college degree in 2025; and

WHEREAS, this year 10 of Alabama's local high schools will be participating in this event, which is focused on preparing students for the exciting opportunities of the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama College Application Week initiative is designed to increase the number of students that are applying to and ultimately enrolling in college with a particular focus on first-generation and low-income students; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama College Application Week initiative is particularly focused on assisting first-generation and low-income students; and

WHEREAS, in Plan 2020 a Prepared Graduate is partially defined as possessing the knowledge and skills needed to enroll and succeed in credit-bearing, first-year courses at a two- or four-year college, trade school, and technical school without the need for remediation; and

WHEREAS, in the Class of 2013, 22,815 students in Alabama applied for financial aid services and completed the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA); and

WHEREAS, this celebration will also highlight the importance of the "college and career readiness" concept, which focuses on creating a *seamless transition* between students leaving high school, entering college, and moving into the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my
hand on this 20th Day of October, 2014



Attest: _____