STATE OF ALASKA

Executive Proclamation

by

Governor Sean Parnell

WHEREAS, in the 21st century, Alaskans must be well-educated and prepared to capitalize on jobs and opportunities within the state and across borders; and

WHEREAS, to keep Alaska strong, I have proposed key education legislation that reflects the choices and interests of all students, including a Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway. CTE is a strong bridge to success, and many of our students would thrive with better access to these programs; and

WHEREAS, CTE establishes a foundation for a workforce that fosters productivity and innovation and contributes to Alaska's leadership in the national and international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, approximately 14 million students across the United States and 35,000 students across Alaska are currently enrolled in CTE programs. CTE spans high-school, post-secondary, and adult education levels, and offers practical applications of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This hands-on learning approach motivates students to stay in school, improves graduation rates, and positions students to be college and career ready; and

WHEREAS, today, over 98 percent of CTE students across the state have completed high school on time, and 90 percent have earned proficient or higher ratings on their technical exams; and

WHEREAS, offering quality CTE and STEM education is crucial for global competitiveness and economic opportunity, as most of the 30 fastest growing occupations over the next decade will likely require at least some background in STEM; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Education and Early Development, and the University of Alaska have developed the Alaska CTE Plan to ensure a comprehensive, integrated career education system for all Alaskans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim February 2014 as:

Career and Technical Education Month

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to explore the career and technical education opportunities available in their schools and communities, and to enhance their individual work-related knowledge and skills to drive innovation and opportunity for a successful future.

Dated: January 30, 2014

Sean Parnell, Governor who has also authorized the seal of the State of Alaska to be affixed to this proclamation.