

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: February 2015 has been designated as “Career and Technical Education Month” and “DECA Month”; and

WHEREAS: Career and Technical Education offers students the opportunity to gain the academic, technical, and employability skills necessary for true career readiness; and

WHEREAS: Students in Career and Technical Education programs participate in authentic, meaningful experiences that improve the quality of their education and increase student engagement and achievement; and

WHEREAS: Career and Technical Education provides students with career exploration opportunities earlier in their educational experience, which enables them to make informed and beneficial decisions about their academic coursework as well as pursuit of established programs of study and career pathways; and

WHEREAS: Leaders from business and industry nationwide report increasing challenges related to the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with available careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, including healthcare, energy, advanced manufacturing, and information technology; and

WHEREAS: Career and Technical Education prepares students for these and other fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education and lead to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials; and

WHEREAS: Ensuring that employers have access to a qualified workforce is a crucial step in ensuring productivity among the business and industry communities as well as continued American economic growth and global competitiveness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim February 2015, as

DECA MONTH

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the Career and Technical Education programs in this community and to support and participate in these programs to enhance their individual skills and productivity.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year of our Lord 2015.





ASA HUTCHINSON, GOVERNOR

Attest:



MARK MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE