

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas's success in the global community rests on an educated and productive workforce. Jobs in the 21st century are increasingly dependent upon post-secondary education and training; and

WHEREAS: Saving and planning ahead today for the cost of a post-secondary education is essential to ensuring the access and completion of a higher education; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas provides The Great Investment for Tomorrow (GIFT) Plan as an affordable, tax-advantaged 529 savings plan for Arkansans to save and plan for their children's post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS: More than 23,000 families are participating in the GIFT AR 529 program and have an average of \$12,000 in savings for their children's post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS: The GIFT AR 529 program includes the Aspiring Scholars Matching Grant program for low-income families assisting them in saving for their children's post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS: Arkansans may enroll in a GIFT AR 529 Plan with an initial contribution of \$25.00 and qualify for up to a \$5,000 Arkansas tax deduction (\$10,000 for married couples); and

WHEREAS: The GIFT AR 529 savings program can be used to pay for qualified educational expenses at any two-year or four-year college, university, vocational or technical institution;

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 September 2015, as

COLLEGE SAVINGS MONTH

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to recognize the benefits of attaining a higher education, and to begin saving for their children's educations.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25th day of August, in the year of our Lord 2015.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

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Mark Martin, Secretary Of State