

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The expense of a post-secondary education continues to rise at alarming rates; and

WHEREAS: A majority of Arkansans enrolled in higher education are dependent upon student loans in order to afford such education; and

WHEREAS: Student loan debt is now second only to mortgage debt equaling \$1.53 trillion and has increased 74 percent in the last decade; and

WHEREAS: One of the top reasons cited for students being unable to enter or complete a post-secondary education is the expense of a such education; and

WHEREAS: Jobs in the 21st century are increasingly dependent upon a 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 such education; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas provides The Arkansas 529 Education Investing Plan as an affordable, tax-advantaged, educational savings plan for the people of Arkansas to save and plan for their children's post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS: 28,837 families are participating in Arkansas 529 Education Investing Plan and have an average of \$15,254 in savings for their children's education; and

WHEREAS: The Arkansas 529 Education Investing Plan 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 2019, 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 12th day of August, in the year of our Lord 2019.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

st:

John Thurston, Secretary Of State