



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the goal of Tennessee's Drive to 55 initiative is to increase the percentage of Tennesseans earning a postsecondary degree or certificate to fifty-five percent by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, in fall 2015, Tennessee's postsecondary going rate increased by 4.6 percentage points to a record 62.5 percent; and

WHEREAS, Early Postsecondary Opportunity Week serves as a platform for school districts to highlight opportunities for their students to earn postsecondary credit/certificates while in high school; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that students who participate in early postsecondary courses are more likely to enroll and persist in postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, early postsecondary opportunities allow students to earn postsecondary credits while in high school, become familiar with postsecondary expectations, develop confidence and skills for success in postsecondary, make informed postsecondary and career decisions, and decrease the time and cost of completing a certificate or degree; and

WHEREAS, all school districts in Tennessee can actively promote student participation by offering a portfolio of early postsecondary opportunities for their students;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 23-27, 2017, as

Early Postsecondary Opportunity Week

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this thirteenth day of September, 2017.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Lee Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State

