



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is committed to remaining competitive in the global economy and ensuring that high-quality, well-paying jobs are continuously available in our state for our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee must recognize the challenges ahead and provide our children with the education and skills needed to excel; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee employers need an educated and skilled workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, the national student loan debt has surpassed \$1.6 trillion, with loan programs composing a substantial amount of the funds on which students rely to finance higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, access to a college savings plan supports post-secondary education attainment; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that students with dedicated savings for college are approximately seven times more likely to attend college than children with no dedicated account; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee created the TNStars College Savings 529 Program to encourage Tennessee families to save and invest for the future cost of higher education in a tax-advantaged way; and

**WHEREAS**, the key to successful saving is to begin early;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 2020 as

*College Savings Month*

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 sixth day of August, 2020.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*John R. Hargett*

Secretary of State