



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee families recognize that a college education is one of the most important things we can do for our children to prepare them for success in life; and

**WHEREAS**, the quality of life for Tennessee and America is driven by a well-educated citizenry; and

**WHEREAS**, as the State of Tennessee and its citizens increasingly compete in the global economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it is imperative that the children of our state have access to the education and skills that will ensure they are successful in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, education and workforce development are priorities, and having a highly-educated workforce is a key factor in attracting and retaining businesses in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, to prepare Tennesseans for a competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century, there must be a more seamless transition among postsecondary education, higher education and the workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, educational preparation is important to ensure a more educated public, and financial preparation is of paramount importance to help ensure families are able to address the inherent cost of higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, without proper planning, the inherent high cost of higher education can jeopardize a family's ability to ensure their children have access to higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, student loan debt has surpassed \$1 trillion, with loan programs composing a substantial amount of the funds on which students rely to finance higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of Tennessee families to encourage saving for higher education expenses so that access to educational opportunities is enhanced for our children, grandchildren, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with state and federal law, the State of Tennessee, has created the TN Stars College Savings 529 Program, which is a Section 529 college savings plan that offers federal tax advantages to encourage saving for the expense of higher education and to promote educational opportunity for all Tennesseans;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 2012 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 seventeenth day of September, 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Haslam", written over a horizontal line.

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Regerth", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State

