



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, Career and Technical Education (CTE) refers to the rigorous academic, technical, and employability skills or content that is taught through career-focused standards and courses in grades K-12 and postsecondary institutions that prepare learners for advanced education, training, and employment in aligned occupations and careers; and

WHEREAS, CTE plays a powerful role in providing students with a variety of opportunities to improve the quality of their education and increase their technical, academic, and employability skills necessary for career readiness and future success; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing need to address the skills gap and connect qualified individuals with available careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields and to emphasize career and technical education that develops foundational knowledge and skills to meet the needs of business and industry; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee invested \$500 million in 2022-2023 to expand CTE programs in every public middle and high school across the state through the Innovative Schools Model; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, the State of Tennessee has prioritized career and technical education through the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) Initiative, expanding access to vocational and technical training for Tennessee students through work-based learning, apprenticeship programs, and funding for dual enrollment credits for trade and technical programs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has invested over \$200 million for Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCAT) infrastructure, as well as over \$98 million for the TCAT Enrollment Initiative since 2021 to help reduce waitlist times for students to participate in CTE-focused programs and to renovate or expand TCAT facilities, hire TCAT faculty, and serve 2,000 more students in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee invested \$1 billion in 2023 to complete the TCAT master plan and skill 10,000 Tennessee workers per year, creating greater opportunity for people across the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, the State of Tennessee increased science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) training in K-12 education through the Future Workforce Initiative to prepare students for success in the technology sector, prioritizing STEM-related career and technical education programs; and

WHEREAS, prioritizing and expanding CTE-focused programs in grades K-12 and postsecondary institutions will prepare Tennessee students for future career pathways and success by providing opportunities for growth, knowledge, and skills-based training in critical occupations and careers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 2024 as

Career and Technical Education 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 thirtieth day of January 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Secretary of State.

Secretary of State

