

WHEREAS; career and technical education improves academic performance, increases graduation rates, and prepares students across Wisconsin for postsecondary education and career success; and

WHEREAS; by providing students with core skills and meaningful experiences, career and technical education improves the quality of education in schools, engages students, and provides them with leadership opportunities in their fields and communities; and

WHEREAS; career and technical education programs serve as a foundation for the state's strong and highly educated workforce, offering Wisconsin students a reliable school-to-career connection; and

WHEREAS; career and technical educators across Wisconsin cooperate with business and industry to stimulate the growth and vitality of local economies, meet the challenges of new and additional responsibilities on educational systems, and prepare graduates for career fields that are expected to see growth in the future; and

WHEREAS; the state's successful efforts to advance career and technical education are reflected in Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship program, achieving an all-time high of 8,357 enrollees and 5,719 employer sponsors during the 2022-23 school year, including more than a dozen new occupational pathways in critical industries; and

WHEREAS; career and technical education in Wisconsin and across the nation continues to foster the spirit of productivity, innovation, and entrepreneurship that has maintained the state's leadership in the global marketplace through programs such as the Wisconsin Fast Forward expanded grant program, which helps school districts cover technical education equipment costs used for vocational training in advanced manufacturing fields; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and the Wisconsin Technical College System, along with community organizations and vested individuals across the state, in celebrating Wisconsin's proud history as a leader in career and technical education and in reflecting on the importance of career and technical education to the collective future of the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim February 2024 as

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 19th day of January 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State