WHEREAS; regardless of age, background, income, or ZIP code, every Wisconsinite deserves the opportunity to access high-quality and affordable education, from early childhood to postsecondary education or career training after high school; and

WHEREAS; it is critical to Wisconsin's workforce development, economic development, and overall success that postsecondary education is accessible, affordable, and attainable for all students, including community colleges and technical schools; and

WHEREAS; applying for financial aid is the first step in qualifying for funding to pay for college and career training programs, and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA[®]) provides Wisconsinites with opportunities to access critical financial aid resources; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's FAFSA[®] Completion Project assists students and families with filing the FAFSA[®], and all Wisconsinites are encouraged to support students as they complete the necessary steps to access the financial aid resources needed to succeed in postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS; according to the National College Attainment Network FAFSA[®] Tracker, Wisconsin currently ranks 38th in the nation for the percentage of high school seniors completing the FAFSA[®], and 50.9 percent of Wisconsin's high school class of 2023 has completed the FAFSA[®] as of September 26, 2023; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions and the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board in encouraging students who choose to pursue postsecondary education to file the FAFSA® and in helping ensure they can reach their postsecondary goals with the tools and resources to maintain financial security;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October 2023 as

FAFSA® FILING 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 29th day of September 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State