

WHEREAS; regardless of age, background, income status, or ZIP code, every Wisconsinite deserves the opportunity to access a high quality and affordable education, from early childhood to our public, private, and technical college and university systems; and

WHEREAS; boasting 26 campuses and extensions and a total enrollment of over 164,000 students, the University of Wisconsin System is one of the largest public higher education systems in the United States, and conferred 42,346 degrees in 2020; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin was the first state to establish a state-supported system of technical education institutions—the Wisconsin Technical College System—which now encompasses 16 colleges and 50 campuses, and graduated 24,611 students in 2020; and

WHEREAS; more than 54,000 students are enrolled in one of Wisconsin’s private, nonprofit colleges or universities and, each year, these institutions award almost 25 percent of our state’s bachelor’s degrees; and

WHEREAS; higher education informs innovation and self-actualization, equips individuals with the skills they need to realize their dreams, and helps to equalize resources in our communities; and

WHEREAS; ensuring access to high quality and affordable education requires meaningful investments in our state’s higher education systems, which includes funding tuition freezes, removing financial barriers to accessing higher education and addressing the student debt crisis, and ensuring that our facilities are safe and meet 21st century needs; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin honors students and educators at higher education institutions across our state, recognizes our state’s history of support for higher education and the long-standing guiding philosophy of the Wisconsin Idea, and reaffirms its commitment to prioritizing higher education in our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 6, 2021, as

NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION DAY

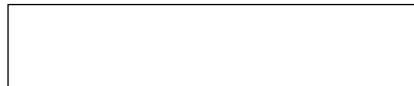
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

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 May 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State