

Proclamation

Proclaiming the Month of September as College Savings Month

- Whereas,** The State of Nebraska is committed to competing in the global economy and ensuring that high-quality, well-paying jobs are available in our State for our young people, we must recognize the challenges ahead and see to it that our children have the education and skills needed to excel; and
- Whereas,** Rising costs of higher education cause parents and grandparents to begin planning earlier for their children's and grandchildren's education beyond high school and to look for creative and responsible ways to save; and
- Whereas,** The amount of student loan debt continues to rise, leaving college graduates with the ever-increasing burden of paying for their education long after they have graduated; and
- Whereas,** Despite the increasing costs of higher education, the reasons are compelling for children to attend college including higher lifetime earnings and a lower unemployment rate for college graduates; and
- Whereas,** It is in Nebraska's interest, as well, that access to post-secondary education, including community colleges and technical schools, for all our children be maintained and that encouraging parents to save for their children's education promotes that public purpose; and
- Whereas,** It is in the best interest of Nebraska's employers to ensure a well-educated workforce; and
- Whereas,** Government, at both the Federal and State levels, can help by encouraging savings and assisting parents, grandparents, friends, and businesses, as they seek to support

the education of children, grandchildren, and others in need of help to meet their higher education goals; and

Whereas, The State of Nebraska provides an excellent college savings program, the Nebraska Educational Savings Trust (NEST), as a Section 529 Qualified State Tuition and Savings Plan through duly enacted laws passed by the Nebraska Legislature, including State tax incentives such as a Nebraska State income tax deduction up to \$10,000 for a couple filing jointly or a single filer as recognition of the value of higher education; and

Whereas, NEST is committed to helping families save by offering convenient tools and valuable information to assist them in making wise decisions about saving for college, whether that be a four-year college or university, a community college, a technical school, or a graduate program;

Now, Therefore, I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, do hereby proclaim the month of September, 2016, as “College Savings Month.” In doing so, I urge families and employers throughout the State to recognize the benefit of higher education and urge the families of Nebraska to begin saving for their children’s education through the Nebraska Educational Savings Trust.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

Signature