

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, college access contributes to a strong and resilient workforce that is ready to adapt to changing economic conditions and fill the jobs of the future; and,

WHEREAS, Illinoisans increasingly need post-secondary degrees and certificates to achieve their personal and professional goals; and,

WHEREAS, the state's goal is that at least 60 percent of Illinois adults will hold a post-secondary degree or credential of value by 2025; and,

WHEREAS, student financial aid programs such as the need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP) and federal Pell Grant program provide access to educational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of low-income Illinois students each year who might not otherwise attend; and,

WHEREAS, eligibility for those grant programs, as well as for loans and school-based grants, requires completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is to make college accessible and affordable for Illinois students, and the agency's Illinois Student Assistance Corps provides financial aid outreach to students in every region of the state; and,

WHEREAS, ISAC, the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling, and the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Inc., are dedicated to improving awareness about college admissions and financial aid resources and procedures among students, parents, and adult learners; and,

WHEREAS, the State's college admission community, financial aid community, and ISAC are collaborating to serve Illinois families through workshops on student financial assistance, including help in completing the FAFSA; and,

WHEREAS, free workshops will be presented in public venues around the State throughout the month of February 2016 to assist Illinoisans in applying for student assistance and reaching their educational and personal goals;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim February 2016 as **FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois and encourage students and families to take full advantage of the college preparation and planning resources available in their communities.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,

this _____ EIGHTH _____ day of _____ FEBRUARY _____, in

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

_____ SIXTEEN _____, and of the State of Illinois,

one hundred and _____ NINETY-EIGHTH _____.



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner
GOVERNOR