

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING  
OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 4, 2016, AS  
ALABAMA COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, all students must have an opportunity to reach their full potential and realize their lifelong aspirations; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Labor estimates 90 percent of our nation's upcoming 21st Century careers will require employees to have postsecondary experience; and

**WHEREAS**, the college application process may be a barrier that could keep some high school students from pursuing postsecondary education because of an absence of information or support; and

**WHEREAS**, obtaining a postsecondary degree is linked to higher income, better health, and even increased community involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, to celebrate *Alabama College Application Week* special activities, official proclamation ceremonies, and other events have been planned statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, only 31 percent of Alabama's working population (between the ages of 25-64) currently have an Associate's degree; and

**WHEREAS**, if this current trend continues, it is estimated that only about 38 percent of adults in Alabama will hold a college degree in 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, all of Alabama's local high schools will be participating in this event, which is focused on preparing students for the exciting opportunities of the 21st Century; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Alabama College Application Week* initiative is designed to increase the number of students who are applying to and ultimately enrolling in college with a particular focus on first-generation and low-income students; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Alabama College Application Week* initiative is particularly focused on assisting first-generation and low-income students; and

**WHEREAS**, in Alabama's PLAN 2020 a "Prepared Graduate" is partially defined as possessing the knowledge and skills needed to enroll and succeed in credit-bearing, first-year courses at a two- or four-year college, and technical school without the need for remediation; and

**WHEREAS**, in the class of 2013, 22,815 students in Alabama applied for financial aid services and completed the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA); and

**WHEREAS**, this celebration will also highlight the importance of the "college- and career-readiness" concept, which focuses on creating a seamless transition between students leaving high school, entering college, and moving into the workforce; and

Action Item No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Alabama State Board of Education  
November 10, 2016

**WHEREAS**, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim October 31- November 4, 2016, as *Alabama College Application Week* and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and local educational organizations to participate in this celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of Alabama's students achieving their aspirations of academic excellence and personal achievement.

Done on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016