



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM MONTH

WHEREAS, April is National Community College Month, and the Florida College System, comprised of Florida's 28 public state and community colleges, is celebrating 55 years of innovation, achievements, and successes; and

WHEREAS, Florida College System institutions have been nationally recognized for their excellence and have consistently topped national rankings, and one out of every 21 Floridians is enrolled in the Florida College System; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds, or 63 percent, of the fastest growing occupations require an associate degree or higher, and the Florida College System plays a critical role in educating and preparing Florida's workforce, enrolling 65 percent of our state's graduates who continue their education directly after high school; and

WHEREAS, it is a strategic goal of the State Board of Education to increase the number of high school students continuing on to postsecondary education, and the Florida College System has an open-door policy that welcomes all students; and

WHEREAS, Florida will honor our state's best and brightest Florida College System students through the Phi Theta Kappa All-Florida Academic Team Awards Ceremony on April 9, 2013, in recognition of the students' academic achievement, leadership, and service to the community; and

WHEREAS, college graduates earn an average of \$1 million more throughout their careers than those students with a high school diploma, and half of the upper division students in the State University System are Florida College System transfer students; and

WHEREAS, between 75 and 80 percent of Florida College System graduates holding baccalaureate degrees, Associate in Science degrees, and Advanced Technical Certificates are employed upon completing their credential; and

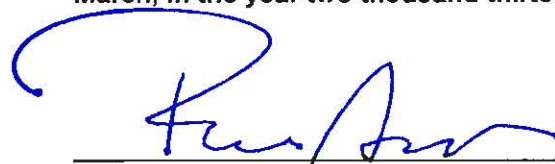
WHEREAS, Florida College System students see a 16.8 percent rate of return on their educational investment; and

WHEREAS, Florida will highlight the accomplishments of the Florida College System throughout the month of April;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 2013 as *Florida College System Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 20th day of March, in the year two thousand thirteen.



Governor