



## Proclamation

- WHEREAS, entrepreneurship is vital to Illinois' growth and prosperity; and
- WHEREAS, most of the new jobs created throughout the United States in the past decade have come from the creative efforts of entrepreneurs and small businesses; and
- WHEREAS, many young Americans envision starting a business or doing something entrepreneurial as adults; and
- WHEREAS, over the last several years, the State of Illinois has redoubled its commitment to nurturing our entrepreneurs, by opening up a network of entrepreneurship centers throughout Illinois to turn promising ideas into promising companies and new jobs; and
- WHEREAS, our investments in the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network have helped small companies generate more than \$3 billion in government contracts and international sales and secure almost \$700 million in financing; and
- WHEREAS, a broad coalition of partner organizations in Illinois and throughout the United States is actively engaged in enhancing entrepreneurial opportunities through collaboration and cooperation with the national Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education; and
- WHEREAS, encouraging youth to be excited about entrepreneurship and working to expand the knowledge, skills and attitudes of Illinois' youth and adults to be successful entrepreneurs are crucial to the long-term growth of local communities, Illinois and the United States; and
- WHEREAS, Illinois' Career and Technical Student Organizations offer an array of programs, activities and competitive events focused on entrepreneurship; and
- WHEREAS, in 1988 the Illinois General Assembly created the Illinois Institute for Entrepreneurship Education to promote entrepreneurship as a viable career option, and to educate and aid the public in economic development; and
- WHEREAS, in 2006 the United States House of Representatives established National Entrepreneurship Week to support the goals and ideals of entrepreneurship in America; and
- WHEREAS, National Entrepreneurship Week provides an opportunity to focus on the innovative ways in which entrepreneurship education can bring together the core academic, technical and problem solving skills essential for future entrepreneurs and successful workers in future workplaces;

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim February 20-26, 2010 as **ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK** in Illinois.

*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 ELEVENTH day of FEBRUARY, in

the Year of Our Lord two thousand and

TEN, and of the State of Illinois

the one hundred and NINETY-SECOND

*Jose White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*

GOVERNOR