

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 1-30, 2021, AS ALABAMA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Department of Education and the National Educational Organizations have proclaimed September 1-30, 2021, as Workforce Development Month; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kay Ivey launched Success+ that will prepare 500,000 more Alabamians to enter the workforce with high-quality postsecondary degrees, certificates, and credentials by 2025; and

WHEREAS, the economic development of every region in our nation and the ability of our businesses and industries to compete in the global economy are more than ever before dependent on the availability and quality of a skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, the complexity and fast-paced change in our economy and labor markets puts new demands on individuals and employers at all levels; and

WHEREAS, job seekers need the assistance of knowledgeable and dedicated professionals to facilitate the process by which our workforce identifies, prepares for, obtains, and maintains employment and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, employers focus on recruiting and retaining a highly skilled and competitive workforce; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's career and technical education programs have become a rigorous, progressive, and vital part of the total educational system, which is committed to providing Alabama's students with rewarding opportunities to learn valuable career and life skills, while earning industry-recognized credentials; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's career and technical education programs are successfully partnering with state and local business and industry to ensure students are equipped with the advanced communication, time management, fiscal responsibility, job preparation skills, technical understanding, workplace behaviors, and leadership skills required for lifelong success; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's career and technical education programs are continually providing students with opportunities to gain valuable hands-on experience through apprenticeships, internships, cooperative education programs, supervised agriculture experience, school-based enterprise, and simulated workplace; and

WHEREAS, profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of work, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's educational programs and innovative initiatives have shown a genuine commitment to preparing students for a successful career by providing them opportunities throughout the K-12 work-based learning continuum activities of job shadowing, career fairs, business and industry tours, and business and industry speakers; and

WHEREAS, over 8,700 Alabama students, from 267 different high schools and career technical centers in Grades 10-12 participate in work-based learning job placements, working over 4.4 million hours, earning over \$40.5 million, and impacting Alabama's economy over \$284 million; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby proclaim September 1-30, 2021, as Workforce Development Month 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 education programs in preparing students for great career opportunities and academic excellence.

Done this 9th day of September 2021