STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: It is important for Minnesota's youth to graduate from high school fully prepared for postsecondary education in order to be competitive in the global marketplace and to provide a better life for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS: Students who understand their options beyond high school and who are academically prepared are far more likely to participate in college; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota receives grants through the U.S. Department of Education's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) to ensure that low income students and those underrepresented in higher education successfully transition from high school to college; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota's GEAR UP program, *Get Ready*, administered by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, provided early college awareness and preparatory services to over 5,700 low income students in nine Twin Cities elementary, middle, and high schools during the 2012-2013 school year, and provided program outreach services to over 3,000 low income students throughout Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: Low income and underrepresented students often need a variety of early college awareness and preparation services such as academic tutoring, targeted curriculum, financial literacy education and help paying for college, opportunities to visit college campuses, academic counseling and mentoring services, summer academic enrichment programming, and parental involvement events; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota is committed to supporting college aspirations and increasing college participation and success for all students through high academic standards, financial aid, and college access programs, including *Get Ready*.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of September 23 – 27, 2013, as:

MINNESOTA GEAR UP WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 19th day of September.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED 2013 (MN) SECRETARY OF STATE