



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Whereas, alarming trends in our national personal financial marketplace include: 40% of Americans say they live beyond their means; in 2005, savings rates dipped to minus 0.5 percent, something that hasn't happened since the Great Depression in 1932 and 1933; personal bankruptcies nearly doubled in the past decade; of the 4,000 students who took the Jump\$tart Coalition national personal finance survey in 2004, 65.5% received failing scores; and

Whereas, the financial well being of individual Rhode Island citizens is linked to our State's and Nation's economic health; and

Whereas, personal financial literacy is linked to individual financial well being; and

Whereas, personal financial literacy education involves active engagement on the part of individual citizens and family units in an ongoing and evolving process; and

Whereas, governments, private businesses, community-based organizations and institutions of education are stakeholders in the pursuit of increased personal financial literacy, and by working together, can help individual consumers make informed decisions about their finances; and

Whereas, the personal financial education of all citizens, especially youth and other vulnerable populations, will improve the quality of their lives, will provide them with skills for success, will contribute to positive changes for the communities in which they live and work; and

Whereas, public and private partnerships such as the Rhode Island Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, seek to improve the personal financial literacy of Rhode Islanders, by promoting educational initiatives throughout our State;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM,

April 2006

as

Financial Literacy Month

in the State of Rhode Island and call on all citizens to join in recognizing the importance of this month.



Matthew A. Brown
Secretary of State

In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be hereunto affixed this 4th day of April 2006.

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor