



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**  
**GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION**

**Whereas**, alarming statistics in our national personal financial marketplace include: private savings rates have steadily declined over the past twenty years and during this time period, uncollateralized debt has risen to record highs; more than 20 million Americans do not have a traditional banking relationship; the average college student is now more than \$20,000 in debt after graduation, leading many graduates to forego financial goals such as purchasing a home or saving and investing for retirement; identity theft and other financial schemes increasingly threaten Rhode Island citizens; Rhode Island high school seniors who took the national 2006 JumpStart Coalition personal financial literacy survey answered just forty-nine percent of the questions correctly; 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 to 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 JumpStart 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,**

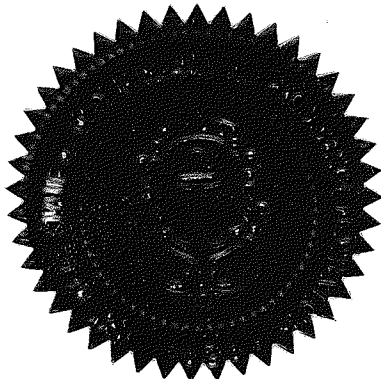
**April 2008**

**as**

**Financial Literacy Month**

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

**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 1st day of April 2008.



**Donald L. Carcieri**  
**Governor**

**A. Ralph Mollis**  
**Secretary of State**