

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington's economic growth and prosperity depends on our ability to make education and job training universally accessible to citizens of all ages and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the number of Washington employers who identified a lack of adult basic education and English language skills as a critical barrier in filling available jobs tripled between 2006 and 2008; and

WHEREAS, one in six adults in Washington lacks the education and training necessary to raise themselves and their families to self-sufficiency, and to close the skills gaps experienced by local employers; and

WHEREAS, education is the engine of mobility, elevating low-wage workers into the middle class and increasing personal prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Washington's community and technical colleges and their community-based partners deliver nearly 100 percent of the adult basic education and English language instruction, a necessary underpinning to train low-skilled adults to advance in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, adult basic education programs will accelerate economic recovery, providing improved skills for better jobs, creating a healthier Washington;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 18-24, 2009, as

Adult Literacy Week

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 9th day of September, 2009

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

