WHEREAS, all students should have the information and support they need to make well-informed choices about life after high school; and,

WHEREAS, educational attainment, particularly completion of credentials and degrees after high school, does not just benefit the individual student but also correlates with positive outcomes for entire communities; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois seeks to reduce achievement gaps and to increase the overall proportion of adults with a high-quality postsecondary credential to 60 percent by 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) will be available on October 1, 2019, for students to apply for aid for the 2020-21 academic year; filing this single application allows a student to be considered for federal and state grants, work-study opportunities, federal student loans, and other resources available to support both traditional college degrees and career and vocational training programs; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) and the agency’s Illinois Student Assistance Corps (ISACorps) of near-peer mentors support students statewide with planning and financial aid services, including financial aid presentations and FAFSA Completion Workshops, so they can make more informed choices about their postsecondary paths and better address the costs of further education or training; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois high schools, colleges and universities, and community-based organizations around the state join with ISAC each October to host free events to help students with both college applications and applications for financial aid;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim October of 2019 to be College Changes Everything Month in Illinois, encourage students and families to take advantage of the financial aid and post-secondary planning resources available in their communities, and commend participating organizations for their support of Illinois youth and their contributions to our state’s robust future.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield, this ___________ day of __________, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and ___________ , and of the State of Illinois, two hundred and _____________.

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE

[Signature]
GOVERNOR