

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** Concord University was founded on February 28, 1872 when the West Virginia Legislature passed “an Act to locate a Branch State Normal School in what was then known as Concord Church in the County of Mercer,” to prepare teachers for the State of West Virginia; and even though the Legislature created the normal school, it provided no land, no buildings, and appropriated no state funds at the time; and, five families of what would later become the town of Athens eventually established the school and started classes on May 10, 1875 with 70 students; and
- Whereas,** the administration of Dr. J. Frank Marsh (1929-1945) brought the University full national accreditation in 1931; also the institution changed its name twice, from “Concord State Normal School” to “Concord State Teachers College” in 1931, to “Concord College” in 1943, The “standard normal” program was abolished in 1936; and
- Whereas,** Concord University has maintained its century and a half long tradition of teaching excellence while growing and transforming to University status in 2004; and
- Whereas,** as Concord University has transformed and enriched the lives of her graduates and the lives and communities in the Central Appalachian region since its founding; and
- Whereas,** Concord University today is a regional, public-supported institution of higher learning best known for its pre-professional education, business, social work, and science programs; and, consistently puts highly qualified professionals back into the WV workforce; and
- Whereas,** the University has established a distinguished legacy of a quality education for many generations of families, and, remains committed to serving the people, communities, and organizations in the region to improve and enhance the quality of life in this special place that has been home to Concord University for nearly 150 years; and
- Whereas,** the Concord University Mountain Lions are members of the NCAA Division II, Mountain East Conference with eight men’s and eight women’s athletic teams; and, Concord University was the first public college in the state to offer competitive, varsity video gaming or “Esports” to its students in 2019; and
- Whereas,** in 1991, Concord University became the only public school in the nation asked to participate in the prestigious Bonner Scholars Program funded by the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation based in Princeton, New Jersey which provides financial support to 80 students each year in return for their community service and leadership activities; and
- Whereas,** Concord University participated in an economic impact study which resulted in acknowledging that Concord University has a \$56 million annual economic impact on the region.

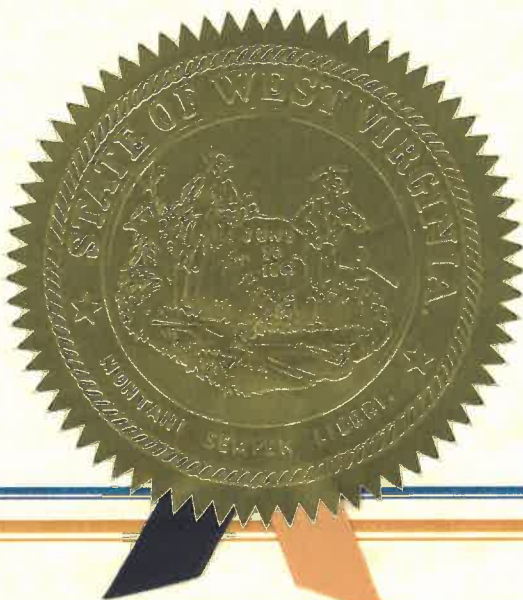
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *March 2, 2020* as:

Concord University Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.


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

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this ~~the~~ Twenty-fifth day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Seventh year of the State




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State