Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, the pursuit of higher education is a transformative journey that brings new opportunities and pathways to personal and professional success; and

Whereas, individuals who are the first in their families to attend college, pave the way for a brighter future for themselves, their families, and their communities; and

Whereas, the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 on November 8 by President Lyndon B. Johnson was a historic moment that established federal financial aid programs and key investments in colleges and universities, thereby promoting postsecondary access, retention, and completion for limited-income, first-generation college students; and

Whereas, the First Generation College Celebration, observed annually on the signing day of the Higher Education Act of 1965, serves as a reminder of the vital role that first-generation college students play in our society and their unique experiences, challenges, and triumphs; and

Whereas, we understand the importance of advancing an asset-based, national narrative of first-generation college students, recognizing the invaluable contributions they make to our state and nation; and

Whereas, the First Generation College Celebration strives to not only celebrate the achievements of first-generation college students but also to break down barriers that may hinder their success.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **November 8, 2024** as:
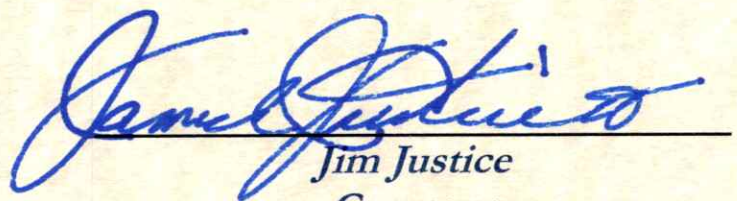
First Generation College Celebration Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in 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 Sixth day of November, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.

Jim Justice
Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:

Mac Warner
Mac Warner
Secretary of State