

The State of New Hampshire
By Her Excellency
Margaret Wood Hassan, Governor

A Proclamation

ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK
FEBRUARY 20 – 27, 2016

WHEREAS, Entrepreneurship is vital to New Hampshire's innovation economy and future growth; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's entrepreneurial spirit is embedded in our citizens' determination to forge innovative paths forward and refusal to accept that there is a limit to what we can accomplish; and

WHEREAS, Innovators and entrepreneurs across the state launch companies to bring their ideas to life, create jobs, and drive economic growth; and

WHEREAS, We are fortunate to have an increasingly vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in New Hampshire supported by public, private, and non-profit partners alike; and

WHEREAS, Each year, thousands of businesses benefit from one-on-one technical assistance and education programs offered through the Department of Resources and Economic Development and the Small Business Development Center, as well as SCORE and numerous other support organizations that provide entrepreneurs with the resources and connections they need to build their businesses in the Granite State; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire is home to five outstanding business incubators that are dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs through educational programming, events, co-working space, and mentorship to ensure that they have the tools and expertise they need to be successful; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's makerspaces provide access to manufacturing equipment, collaboration, and education to help entrepreneurs, innovators, and hobbyists turn their ideas into products and in some cases a business; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's K-12 and higher education communities are committed to supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs by offering an array of programs, activities, and competitive events focused on entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, Fostering an atmosphere that encourages entrepreneurship will help attract and retain young talent here in New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, The Live Free and Start initiative was jointly launched by the Governor's Office, the Business Finance Authority and the Department of Revenue and Economic Development in June 2014 to support entrepreneurs and to make New Hampshire an even better place for innovation-based businesses to start, grow, and succeed; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire was recently ranked as the Fifth-Best State for Entrepreneurship, and Live Free and Start will not rest until New Hampshire is ranked first; and

WHEREAS, Events to highlight, encourage, and support entrepreneurs will take place across the state during **ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK**;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **FEBRUARY 20-27, 2016**, as **ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK** in the State of New Hampshire and encourage all business leaders and residents to observe this week with appropriate activities and opportunities to learn more about the work of entrepreneurs, the important role they play in our economy and our communities, and how they can best be supported.

Given this 25th day of February, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and sixteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-nine.

Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor