WHEREAS, Alaskans must be well educated with knowledge and skills needed to build a strong Alaska workforce, prepared for current and emerging opportunities, and able to meet changing demands; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education (CTE) offers students the opportunity to gain the academic and technical skills necessary for true career readiness and fosters career exploration opportunities early in a student's educational experience; and

WHEREAS, leaders from business and industry report increasing challenges in connecting qualified professionals with available careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, including healthcare, energy, natural resources, and information technology; and

WHEREAS, CTE prepares students for fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education and lead to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Departments of Education and Early Development and Labor and Workforce Development and the University of Alaska system are jointly implementing the statewide CTE plan to ensure a comprehensive, integrated CTE system for Alaska; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that Alaskan students are prepared for successful futures and Alaskan employers have access to a qualified workforce are crucial steps in ensuring productivity among business and industry communities, as well as continued Alaskan economic growth and global competitiveness for the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Bill Walker, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim February 2015 as:

Career and Technical Education Month

in Alaska, and urge all citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the CTE programs in Alaska and to support and participate in these programs.

Dated: January 29, 2015

Bill Walker, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.