WHEREAS, this year we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the enactment of the Louisiana Apprenticeship Law, created to open opportunities for Louisiana citizens to obtain training that will equip them for profitable employment opportunities under conditions providing quality training and reasonable earnings, and to relate the supply of skilled workers to employer demands; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the more than 3,800 registered apprentices in the State of Louisiana and the strength and leadership which results from the dedication of Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors, employers and graduates of their programs; and

WHEREAS, the sponsors have offered solid education opportunities through on-the-job learning and related technical and theoretical instruction which serves to enhance the economic vitality of our state by providing a well-educated, highly skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana recognizes that the 21st century economy demands a workforce with postsecondary education, credentials and the ability to respond immediately to changing economic and business needs; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship is an important component of talent development strategies in many high demand and high growth sectors and is recognized as a critical postsecondary education, training and employment option; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana recognizes Registered Apprenticeship as a successful career pathway and places emphasis on its expansion, in traditional and non-traditional industries, to aid in the development of a proficient and diverse workforce; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs enhance economic vitality, and lead to a stronger economic environment by producing highly skilled and competitive workers, and providing workers with skills versatility, portable credentials recognized national and globally.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim November 12-18, 2018 as

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS WEEK in the State of Louisiana.