STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Computer Science Education Week highlights the crucial role that computer science plays in our society and how computer science enables innovation and creates economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS: The field of computer science is a foundational science for the digital age, and computing technology is an integral part of modern culture, transforming how people interact with each other and the world around them; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota was an early leader in the development of computers, devices, networks, and educational computing and remains a leader in both technology and education; and

WHEREAS: There are an estimated 109,000 tech jobs in Minnesota with an estimated median wage of $101,365 annually, 106% higher than the median state wage; and

WHEREAS: Computing occupations are a part of nearly every Minnesota industry, including health care, manufacturing, agriculture, and information technology; and

WHEREAS: All students deserve thorough preparation for the modern workforce through computer science education at the elementary and secondary levels of education, including access to the qualified teachers, technology, and age-appropriate curriculum; and

WHEREAS: Computer science education in Minnesota faces challenges, such as a lack of common definitions and standards, limited access to students, and a lack of professional development and pre-service training for teachers; and

WHEREAS: The field of computer science also has significant equity barriers to address, including attracting more participation by women and people of color who are often underrepresented in computer science to all levels and branches; and

WHEREAS: Providing students with the chance to participate in high-quality, hands-on computer science activities such as an Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week demystifies the field of computer science, exposes them to the rich opportunities the field offers, and provides critical thinking skills that will serve them throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS: Grace Murray Hopper, one of the first women in the field of computer science, engineered new programming languages and pioneered standards for computer systems which laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science; and

WHEREAS: The week of December 4, in honor of Grace Hopper's birthday, is designated as Computer Science Education Week, and educators, students, schools and colleges, parents, clubs, libraries, companies, and nonprofit groups are encouraged to celebrate and actively explore computer science education activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim December 4-10, 2023, as:

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 30th day of November.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE