

STATE OF MICHIGAN



CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN,
I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

February 10-17, 2024

as

ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

WHEREAS, entrepreneurship is a key building block to success in the workplace and communities as it brings ideas, creativity, and innovation to life and drives economic growth on local, state, and national levels; and,

WHEREAS, according to the 2022 Small Business Profile, business owners by demographics in Michigan are women (43.3%), veterans (5.8%), Hispanics (2.9%), and racial minorities (15.5%); and,

WHEREAS, according to the Statistics of U.S. Businesses, U.S. Census Bureau (SUSB), 911,914 small firms have established themselves in the state—that's 99.6% of all businesses in Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, 1.9 million individuals are employed by small businesses in the state, comprising 47.9% of the private workforce (SUSB).

WHEREAS, during this week and as we work toward a better Michigan, we encourage youth and all citizens throughout the state to explore innovative ways in which entrepreneurship education can bring together the core academic, technical, and problem-solving skills essential for the success of our state's future entrepreneurs; and,

WHEREAS, a total of 13,861 identified firms exported goods worth \$41.6 billion from Michigan in 2020. Of those exporters, 12,241 (88.3%) were small. Exports by small firms reached \$9.8 billion, making up 23.5% of exports by identified firms.

WHEREAS, according to the Ipsos for Junior Achievement USA, 51% of Junior Achievement alumni report having started or partnered in their own business venture; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan offers a network of support hubs and funding resources to help high-tech entrepreneurs and small businesses access mentoring, networking events, product development, grant writing, business planning, technology mining, market analysis, and more to support their business growth; and,

WHEREAS, during this month, we join with other states in engaging public and private organizations to spark entrepreneurial initiatives that can serve as a catalyst for new economic opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, Governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim, February 10-17, 2024, as Entrepreneurship Week in Michigan.



Gretchen Whitmer

Gretchen Whitmer

Governor

