WHEREAS, profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of work, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education provides students with a school-to-careers connection and is the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce, which fosters productivity in business and industry and contributes to our leadership in the national and international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education gives high school students experience in practical, meaningful applications of basic skills such as reading, writing and mathematics, thus improving the quality of their education, motivating at-risk students and giving all students leadership opportunities in their fields and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing cooperative efforts of career and technical educators, business and industry stimulate the growth and vitality of our economy and that of the entire nation by preparing graduates for career fields forecast to experience the largest and fastest growth in the next decade;

WHEREAS, SkillsUSA – a national organization for students preparing for technical, skilled, and service occupations in high schools and colleges/technical schools; and

WHEREAS, SkillsUSA is preparing more than 300,000 students to be high-performance workers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim April 2009 as SkillsUSA MONTH in the State of Louisiana.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this the 1st day of April, A.D. 2009.

Governor of Louisiana