

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Washington's economic well-being relies on the productivity, talent and innovation of its workforce and business community; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington's workforce development strategy identifies lifelong learning as enabling workers to fully realize their talents and abilities, lifting their standard of living and adding value to the industries who employ them; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington is widely recognized as a national leader in workforce development, developing innovative practices such as Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) that blend job skills with basic skills; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington has been selected to pioneer a statewide rollout of Lifelong Learning Accounts (LiLAs), a new employee benefit that promotes continued education among working adults through an employer-matched savings program, and

**WHEREAS**, three forward-thinking Washington employers have agreed to be the first in the state to participate in this shared savings program, and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington LiLA program is designed to eventually expand statewide and be an example to other states and Congress for how our country can foster lifelong learning among adult workers;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington do hereby proclaim August 2009 as

### *Lifelong Learning Month*

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009

Handwritten signature of Christine O. Gregoire in blue ink.

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

