



## Proclamation

WHEREAS, entrepreneurship is vital to Illinois' growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, most of the new jobs created throughout the United States in the past decade have come from the creative efforts of entrepreneurs and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, more than 70 percent of young Americans envision starting a business or doing something entrepreneurial as adults; and

WHEREAS, since taking office in 2003, my administration has made an unprecedented commitment to nurturing our entrepreneurs, opening up 19 entrepreneurship centers throughout Illinois to turn promising ideas into promising companies and new jobs; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, our investments in the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network have helped small companies generate almost \$3.3 billion in government contracts and international sales and secure almost \$674.3 million in financing; and

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of partner organizations in Illinois and throughout the United States is actively engaged in enhancing entrepreneurial opportunities through collaboration and cooperation with the national Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education; and

WHEREAS, encouraging youth to be excited about entrepreneurship and working to expand the knowledge, skills and attitudes of Illinois' youth and adults to be successful entrepreneurs are crucial to the long-term growth of local communities, Illinois and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Illinois' Career and Technical Student Organizations offer an array of programs, activities and competitive events focused on entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 the Illinois General Assembly created the Illinois Institute for Entrepreneurship Education to promote entrepreneurship as a viable career option, and to educate and aid the public in economic development; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the United States House of Representatives established National Entrepreneurship Week to support the goals and ideals of entrepreneurship in America; and

WHEREAS, National Entrepreneurship Week provides an opportunity to focus on the innovative ways in which entrepreneurship education can bring together the core academic, technical and problem solving skills essential for future entrepreneurs and successful workers in future workplaces:

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim February 23 through March 1, 2008 as **ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK** in Illinois.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Desae White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,*  
*this TWENTY-SECOND day of JANUARY, in*  
*the Year of Our Lord two thousand and*  
*EIGHT, and of the State of Illinois*  
*the one hundred and NINETIETH*

*Rod Blagojevich*

GOVERNOR