

INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

WHEREAS: An independent, entrepreneurial spirit is a foundation of our nation and state, and small businesses make up 95% of all businesses in the State of Georgia. Entrepreneurship requires creativity, innovation and determination, and the competition it creates results in better products and services for the consumer; and

WHEREAS: With cultural and technological developments increasingly connecting our world, globalization is bridging countries and facilitating trade, forging a path for entrepreneurs to participate in the global economy. Exposure to international companies and cultures better prepares Georgians to become involved; and

WHEREAS: Georgia's strong business climate fosters international entrepreneurship. Almost 10,000 Georgia companies exported just under \$20 billion of goods and services to 224 countries in 2005. Georgia is also home to over 2,200 international companies representing 44 countries that employ almost 200,000 Georgians; and

WHEREAS: Over half a million international visitors came to Georgia in 2004, and nearly 5,000 Georgia students now study abroad each year. Additionally, more than 18,000 students from other countries study in Georgia, contributing more than \$250 million to the state's economy every year; and

WHEREAS: International entrepreneurship has made great contributions to the State of Georgia, and we are proud to encourage its successful growth in North America; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 27, 2006, as INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 16th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand six.