



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Black History Month is an important time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African-Americans to Florida's cultural diversity, social equality, and economic contributions; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Florida's 2012 Black History Month is "African-American Pioneers who Advanced Science and Technology"; and

WHEREAS, this year's Black History Month offers an opportunity to raise public awareness of African-Americans who have made significant contributions in the fields of science and technology; and

WHEREAS, individuals such as Otis Boykin, inventor of the control unit for the artificial heart pacemaker, Frederick McKinley Jones, inventor of mobile refrigeration units used for long-haul transportation of perishable goods, and Sarah E. Goode, the first black female to receive a United States patent, have inspired creativity and innovation for future generations of African-American inventors, scientists and engineers; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to many pioneering African-American scientists and engineers and we are proud to recognize their impact on our state; and

WHEREAS, established by American historian Carter G. Woodson, the original celebration of Black History Week was observed on February 12, 1926. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded to a month; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate Black History Month, we recognize the many contributions of African-Americans to our country and the State of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing February 2012 as *Black History Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 31st day of January, in the year two thousand twelve.


Governor