

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the ten member colleges and universities of the Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW) have provided outstanding quality education in Washington State for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, more than 30,000 students are currently enrolled at the ten ICW institutions where they are challenged with a rigorous academic program set in a personalized classroom environment with a student-faculty ratio of 13-to-1 which encourages academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, independent higher education offers students a high quality educational opportunity which saves Washington taxpayers more than \$287 million annually in state tuition subsidies and other support, fosters healthy competition, and enhances the educational opportunity all Washington residents enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the ten ICW colleges and universities strive to ensure that no academically qualified student is denied access for economic reasons, and this commitment is demonstrated by their offering more than \$100 million in private aid; and

WHEREAS, the ICW produce 23 percent of all baccalaureate and higher education degrees awarded in Washington each year, and their student bodies geographically represent the entire state; and

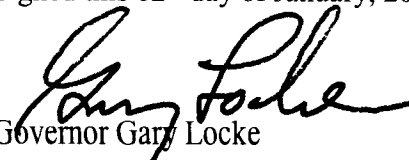
WHEREAS, the independent colleges build pride and strengthen the ties of their local communities by opening the vast resources of their libraries to the public, producing theatrical events, hosting nationally renowned guest speakers, and sponsoring seminars and educational workshops, in addition to their nationally competitive athletic teams; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim January 11-17, 2004, as

Independent Colleges of Washington Week

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

Signed this 12th day of January, 2004


Governor Gary Locke

