WHEREAS, a well-educated populace is one of the cornerstones of American democracy and one of the keys to a brighter future for all Missouri citizens; and

WHEREAS, rapid changes in our society, in our workforce, in technology and in the global marketplace present new and significant challenges to Missouri students, families, workers, employers, and communities; and

WHEREAS, in order to lead productive and fulfilling lives in a fast-changing world, most citizens need to think of learning as a continuous and lifelong process, not as something that only occurs in school or college; and

WHEREAS, education, civic and business leaders should work together to make certain that residents of every community have access to diverse and high-quality learning opportunities that enable citizens of all ages to achieve their personal and career goals.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim February 2020 to be

LIFELONG LEARNING MONTH

in Missouri, and urge all citizens and educators to observe this event in appropriate ways.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 16th day of January, 2020.