



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK

WHEREAS, environmental education instills an awareness for and appreciation of the environment at a young age and a full week dedicated to environmental educational preparation in K-12 classrooms, on university campuses, and in informal settings such as state parks, nature centers, zoos, aquariums, and museums will encourage environmental education and stewardship as a priority for the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, collaborative efforts will increase the amount of environmental education taking place in America's classrooms prior to Earth Day while drawing educator attention to the larger opportunities and value of environmental education for both year-long education and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, environmental education with a strong focus on science will help inspire and prepare Florida's students – especially underserved and underrepresented populations –to pursue competitive and high paying careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics through programs such as Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) which is administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and

WHEREAS, students demonstrating exemplary involvement and dedication to the environment should be recognized, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection highlights and commends young individuals committed to environmental preservation through the Florida Green School Awards program; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Green School Awards program recognizes green activities, projects, policies and partnerships that take place during the school year and documents the growing number of initiatives that generate cost savings and create healthy and productive places for learning, and applicants of Green School Awards saved \$5.2 million dollars through their combined green school efforts last year in 2010; and

WHEREAS, this year's National Environmental Education Week theme is Ocean Connections and is coordinated by the National Environmental Education Foundation in cooperation with hundreds of outstanding environmental education organizations, education associations, and agencies, and aims to become an annually-anticipated event for local participation in schools and various education centers in Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 11-17, 2011 as National *Environmental Education Week*.



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 13th day of April, in the year two thousand eleven.

A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, written in a cursive style.

Governor