WHEREAS, Profound economic, workforce development and technological changes in our society are rapidly impacting the structure and nature of work, thereby, placing increasing responsibilities on our educational system to prepare students for careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics); and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education promotes college and career ready standards by providing high school students with options to earn college credit and valid industry certifications ensuring a smooth transition to further postsecondary education and training programs, thus, creating a strong school-to-careers connection that is the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce; and

WHEREAS, Preparation for Maryland students to be college and career ready demands the ever-increasing cooperative efforts of educators, school counselors, postsecondary faculty and advisors, workforce development professionals and business and industry representatives to prepare youth and adults for career fields that are forecasted to experience the largest and fastest growth in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education offers individuals lifelong opportunities to learn and apply new skills, which provide them with career choices and potential satisfaction fostering productivity in business and industry and contributing to America’s leadership in the international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education gives students opportunities, to develop the 21st Century Skills in demand for employment success in the global economy, thus, improving the quality of their education and giving them leadership opportunities in their field and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, February 2021 has been designated Career and Technical Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education and Maryland State Department of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim February 1-28, 2021 as NATIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.