



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, entrepreneurship encourages progress toward innovative solutions to the problem of economic growth and stability, and supports the promise of thriving communities that embrace inclusion and a better life for all families; and

WHEREAS, nationally, sales from minority-owned businesses exceed a trillion dollars in buying power, indicating that success already exists, and that all business models can be enhanced by partnerships with successful entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, there are more than 183,000 minority-owned businesses in North Carolina, which realize more than \$16.1 billion in sales annually;

WHEREAS, North Carolina's minority-owned businesses create economic growth by providing more than 261,000 jobs and employing more than 129,000 residents, helping to build a skilled labor force and contributing to the economic stability of our state; and

WHEREAS, during the fall of 2018, thousands of minority entrepreneurs; corporate representatives; federal, state, and local governments; and non-profit entities statewide will participate in programs that expand access to networks, capital, and opportunities necessary for businesses to grow and develop; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina draws strength from the diversity of our people and is a place where everyone, regardless of their background, race, gender, ethnicity, or personal circumstances, deserves a chance to enjoy prosperity; and

WHEREAS, entrepreneurs are essential to growing our economy, and harness the spirit of innovation and creativity that drive economic sustainability; in North Carolina and throughout our nation, minority-owned enterprises have helped to spur this progress; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages and empowers every hardworking individual to join in celebrating the outstanding accomplishments made by minority-owned firms, and support minority business development;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October, 2018, as "**MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.