STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS, Black History Month is an important time to remember the long struggle for racial equality and dignity by Americans of African ancestry; and*

*WHEREAS, the year 2013 marks two significant anniversaries in the history of African Americans and civil rights in the United States: the 150th anniversary of the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln, which called for the abolishment of slavery, and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s celebrated "I Have a Dream" speech, which called for racial harmony and an end to segregation in the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, Black History Month recognizes the invaluable contributions made by African-Americans to all aspects of American life, including leadership in public service, art, education, business as well as civil and human rights; and*

*WHEREAS, New Jersey's schoolchildren are fortunate to grow up in classrooms where they are taught to appreciate the many diverse heroes of American history and the irreplaceable role that people of all backgrounds have played in making our Nation a beacon of freedom and democracy; and*

*WHEREAS, materials have been developed in recent years that give our students a fuller understanding of American history with the inclusion of previously-neglected characters and themes; and*

*WHEREAS, Black History Month provides a special opportunity for teachers, schools, public and private organizations to focus on the many African-Americans whose lives have shaped our common history and heritage; and*

*WHEREAS, during Black History Month and throughout the year, it is imperative to embrace our diverse history so that all children can see themselves in our Nation's past and know that they have a crucial role to play in its future;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:*

## *FEBRUARY 2013*
## *AS*
## *BLACK HISTORY MONTH*

*in New Jersey, and encourage our residents to reflect upon the important role that African-Americans have played and continue to play in making our State a better place to live, work and raise a family.*

*GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this first day of February in the year two thousand thirteen, the two hundred thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.*

Kim Guadagno
Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR