

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** self-esteem is a complex concept that includes mental, emotional, and behavioral elements that contribute to an individual's experience in confronting life's challenges; and

**WHEREAS,** studies have shown that low self-esteem can be a factor in negative behaviors including violence, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, eating disorders, low academic achievement, and dropping out of school; and

**WHEREAS,** a healthy self-esteem, characterized in part by respect and tolerance for others, integrity, self-motivation, an ability to take criticism, a willingness to take risks, and accepting responsibility for one's actions, can lead to higher achievement in school; and

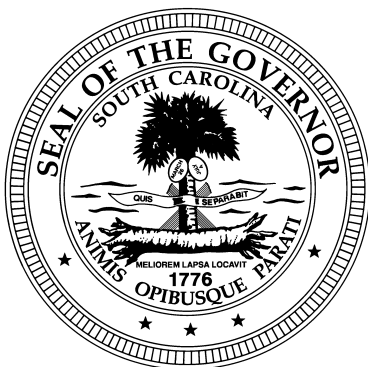
**WHEREAS,** "Project ESTEEM" is designed to educate and empower young students, parents and teachers across the Palmetto State by distributing materials, including a children's book based on discovering the meaning of success, bookmarks for students and faculty with a book list to help guide adults in the discussion of self-esteem and individuality with children, and a resource packet to integrate the materials in the classroom; and

**WHEREAS,** Project ESTEEM is sponsoring a contest for students who complete the statement, "I am special because..." with character traits, physical attributes, or talents and illustrate their answers to encourage positive self-evaluation and individuality and will recognize, based on creativity and overall presentation of ideas, five statewide winners.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 19 - 25, 2006, as

### PROJECT ESTEEM WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to advance the development of character and positive self-esteem through education.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark Sanford".

**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**