WHEREAS, graduate schools throughout the Palmetto State provide an excellent opportunity for advanced study in numerous programs; and

WHEREAS, every elementary, secondary, and undergraduate college student in the state has the potential to become one of our outstanding researchers by enrolling in graduate level education; and

WHEREAS, research is the intellectual process that enables the discovery of new knowledge, contributing to possible advances in science and technology, improvements in economic development, and the emergence of fresh perspectives on issues of importance to all South Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, graduate school deans in the state are committed to demystifying graduate education and research so that all students can choose to prepare themselves for the pursuit of this level of education; and

WHEREAS, organizations across the Palmetto State, including the State Department of Education, South Carolina GEAR UP, the Commission on Higher Education, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, colleges and universities, business and industry, community and child advocacy groups, government agencies and private entities, are forming a unique partnership with graduate schools to work together in helping to raise expectations for the level of education our youth can achieve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2006 as

FOCUS ON RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness among our young people of the importance of seeking the highest level of education in order to make significant contributions to an improved quality of life for all residents of the Palmetto State.