WHEREAS, independent colleges and universities throughout the nation are dedicated to providing high quality, post-secondary educational opportunities for our citizens, serving more than 3 million students across the country; and

WHEREAS, these institutions have established an unparalleled record of excellence in teaching and nurturing students, adapting to ever-evolving student needs, technological advancements, and social trends, while providing students with a full range of educational experiences; and

WHEREAS, independent colleges and universities in the Palmetto State share a common commitment to promoting critical thinking and creativity by preparing students for full lives, productive careers, and active citizenship.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 18 - 24, 2004, as

INDEPENDENT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY WEEK

and April 21, 2004, as

INDEPENDENT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize our independent colleges and universities for their positive contributions to ensuring our continued status as leaders in higher education.