WHEREAS, serving more than 30 thousand students across our state, independent colleges and universities are dedicated to providing high quality, post-secondary educational opportunities; 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 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 3 - 7, 2006, as

INDEPENDENT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY WEEK

and April 5, 2006, 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.