WHEREAS, the future success of our young people depends on the availability of quality, accessible educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, many students are able to attend college and achieve their educational, personal, and professional goals through financial aid programs, which provide millions of dollars in grants, scholarships, and student loans; and

WHEREAS, financial aid programs provide valuable funds for post-secondary education, including tuition and fees, housing and food, books and supplies, and transportation and personal expenses, without which many students could not continue their studies; and

WHEREAS, student financial aid administrators throughout the Palmetto State work daily to help students identify the resources and options available to meet the costs of their education and to remove barriers to obtaining a college degree by ensuring greater access to information about assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, the annual observance of Financial Aid Awareness Month raises public awareness of the various types of aid available to help students and families afford higher education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2007 as

FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about financial assistance programs and to recognize with appreciation the important work performed by financial aid professionals.