

CASUAL WEEK

WHEREAS: The Georgia Academy for the Blind was established in Macon in 1852 by legislation of the General Assembly to meet the educational needs of blind school age persons throughout the state. The Academy is the state's only residential school for the blind, deaf-blind and multi-disabled children ranging in age from three to twenty-one years; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the educational programs at the Academy is to provide developmental opportunities in a variety of academic, vocational and community domains to empower students to achieve their highest level of independence. These programs have been shown to create educated and productive citizens that contribute to Georgia's economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS: Over the past 156 years, Georgia's business community has benefitted and will continue to benefit from the Academy's outstanding work in educating and creating a more independent, better-qualified workforce of productive, tax-paying citizens from the visually impaired and multi-disabled students in its care; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Academy for the Blind Student Fund is solely supported by donations. Some of the programs financed by the Student Fund include off-campus fieldwork for all students, clothing and shoes for students who are in need, the motivational wage program for students who work on campus, specifically-prescribed wheel chairs and other equipment for students with orthopedic impairments and an educational summer camp experience hosted by the Academy; and

WHEREAS: Friends and family of the Academy have developed a fundraiser to support the Student Fund and its vital programs called "Georgia Casual Week," a voluntary employee-choice fundraiser that involves no cost to the employer. During the week of February 9-13, 2009, an employee could choose to dress casually by paying a small donation for the privilege. The proceeds collected would then go to the Georgia Academy for the Blind Student Fund; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 9-13, 2009 as CASUAL WEEK in Georgia to benefit the Georgia Academy for the Blind Student Fund. I encourage the Georgia business community to support the Academy's mission of creating independent, productive future Georgia workers by encouraging and allowing employee participation in Georgia Casual Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 13th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand nine.