WHEREAS, a graduate and professional education attracts students from across the nation and across the world to Florida universities for advanced and specialized training; and

WHEREAS, in graduate and professional programs across the state, graduate school educators are providing access to cutting-edge knowledge and analytical skills essential to ensuring that Florida produces individuals at the forefront of their respective fields; and

WHEREAS, graduate and professional students make vital contributions to the teaching and research that underpins the new knowledge-based economy as graduate teaching and research assistants; and

WHEREAS, Florida teachers with advanced degrees are creating environments that will assist Florida’s children and young adults to become productive members of the workforce and informed citizens; and

WHEREAS, alumni from Florida’s graduate and professional schools occupy leadership roles in school systems, institutions of higher learning, health-related institutions, businesses, government, and politics;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March 30, 2009 through April 3, 2009 as Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 9th day of March, in the year two thousand nine.