A RESOLUTION

Designating September 2020 as "Workforce Development Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, Pennsylvania's labor force consists of over 6.4 million workers; and

WHEREAS, In light of the economic impact of COVID-19, Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for July 2020 was 13.7%; and

WHEREAS, Workforce development, while always the backbone of Pennsylvania's economic development, is now a critical component to Pennsylvania's economic recovery by helping Pennsylvanians find family-sustaining jobs, supporting local employers in their talent management needs and strengthening regional economies; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has diverse and competitive industry sectors in fields such as advanced manufacturing, health care, energy, financial and business services, information technology, logistics and transportation, building and construction and
WHEREAS, According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are three unemployed persons per one job opening; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania employers must tap into a pipeline and an emerging workforce to operate competitively; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's skill gap still remains because employers report that 60% of job openings will require a post-secondary education by 2025 and only 50.3% of Pennsylvanians possess this credential or higher; and

WHEREAS, Sustained investment in workforce development is crucial to the ability of Pennsylvania to compete in the global economy and for Pennsylvanians to stay qualified for the good-paying jobs of today and the future; and

WHEREAS, Collaboration among the Governor, local governments, State and local education, training, workforce development, human services agencies, community colleges, local businesses, employment-service providers, community-based organizations, labor unions and local workforce development boards provides for long-term, sustainable and successful workforce and an economically healthy Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, The 22 local workforce development boards, over 50 PA CareerLink centers and the thousands of workforce development system partners are a driving force to employment and reemployment pathways by providing career readiness training and assistance; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of September 2020 as "Workforce Development Month" in Pennsylvania.