

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** West Virginia State University is a premier regional research university that is recognized nationally for its quality education, innovative teaching, and experiential learning; and
- Whereas,** the University was founded by the West Virginia Legislature on March 17, 1891, as a public historically black college and university (HBCU) in Institute, West Virginia; and
- Whereas,** it is one of the original universities among the 1890 land-grant colleges and universities established by the second Morrill Act of 1890; and
- Whereas,** along with academic programs, military education has been an integral part of the curriculum, having graduated more than 900 second lieutenants, and 15 major generals, and a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient throughout the University's history; and
- Whereas,** in 1927, the university was accredited by the North Central Association, making it the first of 17 original schools to be certified by a regional association, becoming the first public college in West Virginia to be accredited by the North Central Association Higher Learning Commission; and
- Whereas,** in 1954, the United States Supreme Court gave its historic decision outlawing school segregation, and West Virginia State rapidly transitioned to an integrated institution garnering national attention for substantial enrollment increases after the removal of racial barriers; and
- Whereas,** in 2004, the West Virginia Legislature approved the transition to University status; and
- Whereas,** as a land-grant institution, West Virginia State University's Extension Service serves all 55 counties of the state; and
- Whereas,** as a regional research institution, West Virginia State University contributes significantly to state economic development efforts in the natural and social sciences, including agricultural, environmental, biomedical, and business and economics research endeavors; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia State University currently has more than 17,000 alumni living in the state of West Virginia, including scholars, celebrities, politicians, business people, athletes, and leaders, who have distinguished themselves across the globe and changed the world, such as the Tuskegee Airmen, NBA legend Earl Lloyd, and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Katherine Johnson, who inspired the film, "Hidden Figures"; and
- Whereas,** since its founding, West Virginia State University has always proven to be a community of outstanding students, faculty, and staff devoted to helping people excel and gain the education needed to launch successful careers.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim, *February 9, 2026*, as:

West Virginia State University Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance and recognize the many contributions made by West Virginia State University to West Virginia and the nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State