WHEREAS, career and technical education is part of the foundation of a strong, well-educated modern workforce that fosters productivity in business and industry; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (CareerTech) provides nationally recognized competency-based curriculum, education and training for a myriad of specialized and customized courses and training opportunities; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in CareerTech classes numbers approximately 500,000 students annually, and its curriculum is developed with the input of industry professionals using skills standards to identify the knowledge and abilities needed to master an occupation; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of Oklahoma’s 9th- through 12th-grade students are enrolled in CareerTech classes, and more than 82,000 students learned important leadership skills in CareerTech student organizations; and

WHEREAS, CareerTech helps more than 8,000 Oklahoma businesses increase sales, improve productivity, reduce costs, and expand operations, and offers specialized occupational training to more than 2,071 adult and juvenile offenders; and

WHEREAS, February has been designated Career and Technical Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to acknowledge Oklahoma’s career and technology education that has been elevating the future of our citizenry for over a century by providing the training needed to achieve success in the workplace;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Governor J. Kevin Stitt, do hereby proclaim February, 2020 as

“Career and Technical Education Appreciation Month”

in the State of Oklahoma.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 14th day of January in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and twelfth year.