



WHEREAS, President Obama has proclaimed January 2016 as National Mentoring Month, celebrating the vital role that mentors play by helping to broaden the horizons for America's youth. He has called upon public officials, business and community leaders, educators and all Americans to observe this month recognizing the contributions of mentors across the nation; and

WHEREAS, in Monroe County Florida, the non-profit Take Stock in Children is the premier scholarship and mentoring organization; and

WHEREAS, first established in 1995 in Florida, Take Stock in Children provides at-risk and low-income students extensive support, motivation and accountability to ensure they graduate from high school and pursue their postsecondary education goals; and

WHEREAS, over the past 21 years, Take Stock in Children has served more than 26,000 students in 67 counties throughout Florida, and nearly 800 students in Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, Take Stock in Children Monroe collaborates with community leaders and business partners, as well as staff and key stakeholders to provide equal educational opportunities to all children despite their socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, the organization promises scholars the support of a caring mentor, in-school support, college readiness services provided by college success coaches, and a college tuition scholarship upon high school graduation; and

WHEREAS, during National Mentoring Month, Take Stock in Children Monroe commends and honors its 250 volunteer mentors for the assistance, advice, and guidance they provide during weekly mentor sessions, making a positive difference in the students' lives and improving their self-confidence and belief that a college degree is attainable; and,

WHEREAS, the work of Take Stock Monroe mentors results in the high school graduation of 100% of the Take Stock scholars, and the matriculation of 96% in post-secondary education, well over the national averages; and

WHEREAS, the high level performance of its mentors has rewarded Take Stock Monroe with the highest Gold Level designation for its student services, support, and mentoring; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, and Sam Kaufman, District IV Commissioner do hereby proclaim the month of January, 2016, as

National Mentoring Month

WITNESS our hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 20th day of January, 2016.

Craig Cates, Mayor

Sam Kaufman, District II Commissioner