

PROCLAMATION

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT



WHEREAS, the need for literate and prepared citizenry increases as Humboldt County grows and moves toward an increasingly technological future; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. workforce trails many other developed nations in adult foundational skills, including the ability to read, the ability to understand numbers and do math, and the ability to solve problems using technology; and

WHEREAS, 15 percent of United States adults are functionally illiterate and 23 percent lack basic literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, higher literacy rates are linked to lower rates of crime, unplanned pregnancy, and dependence on tax paid services; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Medical Association, literacy skills levels are a "stronger predictor of a person's health than age, income, employment status, education level, and race," and low literacy adds an estimated \$230 billion to the country's annual health care costs; and

WHEREAS, since 1985, the Humboldt Literacy Project has trained volunteers from the community to teach literacy skills to adults free of charge; and

WHEREAS, adults need strong literacy skills to raise children with strong literacy skills, recognizing that a child's first teacher is the parent/caregiver; and

WHEREAS, adults need strong literacy skills to be productive members of the workforce to grow and sustain a robust economy, and the effects of low literacy cost in the U.S. is hundreds of billions of dollars each year; and,

WHEREAS, literacy is a civic right and citizens governed by written law ought to be able to read written law; and,

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Literacy Project offers opportunities for adults to improve their literacy and language skills to pursue lifelong learning and community engagement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the month of May be proclaimed Adult Literacy Awareness Month in Humboldt County. We commend the efforts of these generous volunteer tutors and brave adult learners at Humboldt Literacy Project who are working to make Humboldt a stronger and more capable community. We urge all citizens to be aware of literacy services and support them in their community and remind them that they are all are invited to the Literacy Project's annual fundraiser, the Trivia Challenge, on May 2, 2019 in Eureka.

DATED: April 16, 2019

REX BOHN, Chair