

WHEREAS, January 2022 will mark the 20th anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign to focus attention on the need for mentors and mentorship opportunities through mentoring programs and professional internships focused on young people, as well as working together to increase the number of opportunities for internships and mentorship; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma's Strategic Plan, Tacoma 2025, identifies indicators that state (1) All students will graduate from high school and be prepared to enter the workforce or pursue post-secondary education, (2) Increase the number of college students that find employment and remain in Tacoma after post-secondary completion, and (3) Demonstrate community support for education by increasing support for volunteering and mentoring youth, that directly align with internships and mentorship; and

WHEREAS, mentoring programs like Palmer Scholars make our communities and our state stronger by driving impactful relationships that increase social capital for young people and provide invaluable support networks that have become even more vital to ensure that physical distancing does not mean social disconnection during this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Tacoma Public Schools and Degrees of Change have established the Tacoma Professional Pipeline that connects high school and college age students with mentorship opportunities through Next Move, Summer Jobs 253, and Seed internships; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma is committed to providing more mentorship opportunities through the Tacoma Professional Pipeline, and working together with the Tacoma Anchor Network and our partners to further expand the number of internship opportunities; and

WHEREAS, internships and professional mentorship plays a pivotal role in career exploration and supports workplace skills by helping young people set career goals, equipping mentors with the skills needed to support the professional growth of young people, and drives positive outcomes for young people and businesses; and

WHEREAS, quality mentoring through structured programs or internships helps promote healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem, emotional well-being, and growth of a young person and their relationships with other adults, and increase the likelihood that students will not miss school days and enroll in college;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, VICTORIA WOODARDS, Mayor of the City of Tacoma, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim January 2022 as

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

in the City of Tacoma and invite our community to celebrate our mentors and challenge our community partners to expand opportunities for our youth to have professional internship and mentorship opportunities, and become a mentor yourself if you are able.

**WITNESS, THEREFORE, MY HAND
AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE
CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON,
This 11th day of January 2022.**

VICTORIA R. WOODARDS, Mayor