

**WHEREAS**, Valencia College was founded in 1967 and today operates six campuses and centers in Central Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Valencia College enrolls more than 50,000 students each term, making it the third largest among Florida's 28 community colleges; and

**WHEREAS**, Valencia College offers more than 700 courses each semester and provides for a wide range of programs including associate's degrees, career technical certificates and continuing professional education; and

**WHEREAS**, Valencia College produces more associate's degree graduates than any other college in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Valencia College has a diverse student population that includes 47% minority students, and ranks sixth in the nation in the number of associate degrees awarded to minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, Fifty-one percent of Valencia College's full-time students graduate or transfer within three years of entering the school, a rate significantly higher than the 39% national average; and

**WHEREAS**, Valencia College achieves exceptional student outcomes by reworking many traditional processes making it easier for students to begin and continue classes, and by encouraging professors and administrators to take responsibility for student success; and

**WHEREAS**, Valencia College maintains strong relationships with our community's employers and plays a vital role in linking students to well paying jobs, serving as a bridge to higher accomplishments for residents in Central Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Valencia College is an engine for employment in our community, a model among community colleges in our nation, and provides a culture for innovation for its faculty, staff and students; and

**WHEREAS**, after a competitive year-long process among more than 120 community colleges in the nation, the Aspen Institute named Valencia College the winner of the inaugural Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Mayor Buddy Dyer, do hereby proclaim Monday, January 9, 2012 as

**“Valencia College Day”**

in the City of Orlando.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Orlando this 9th day of January, 2012.