

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) was founded in 1972 and this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary; and
- Whereas,** WVSOM is an integral part of healthcare delivery in the Mountain State and continues to fulfill its mission to educate students from diverse backgrounds as lifelong learners in osteopathic medicine and complementary health-related programs; to support and develop graduate medical education training; to advance scientific knowledge through academic, clinical and basic science research; and to promote patient-centered, evidence-based medicine, serving, first and foremost, the state of West Virginia and the health care needs of its residents, emphasizing primary care in rural areas; and
- Whereas,** WVSOM is the largest medical school in West Virginia and, as recognized by the peer reviewed medical journal Academic Medicine, is number one in the nation among schools that graduate physicians who practice in rural areas; and
- Whereas,** WVSOM has been recognized for 24 consecutive years as a top medical school by U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Graduate Schools," and is recognized by the publication as fourth in the nation for producing the most primary care residents; and
- Whereas,** WVSOM serves the entirety of West Virginia through its main campus in Lewisburg, its Statewide Campus regions including sites in Charleston, Huntington, Parkersburg, Bridgeport, Wheeling and Martinsburg, and its numerous clinical rotation partnerships with hospitals and clinics in West Virginia and surrounding states; and
- Whereas,** WVSOM's economic impact is greater than \$133 million per year throughout West Virginia, and when including contributions made by WVSOM alumni delivering healthcare the total economic impact is over \$1.5 billion per year in West Virginia; and
- Whereas,** the foundation of WVSOM's success is based on the lifelong contributions and tireless service of its over 3,370 graduates who practice in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and the passion, dedication, and outstanding service of its faculty and staff over the past 50 years; and
- Whereas,** under the leadership of President James W. Nemitz, Ph.D., WVSOM will bury a time capsule on WVSOM's inaugural Founders Day and in honor of its 50th Anniversary to celebrate the history of WVSOM and those who played a pivotal role in WVSOM's inception; and
- Whereas,** the State of West Virginia and its citizens recognize the importance of WVSOM, its mission, programs, students, alumni, faculty and staff, and overall impact on the State of West Virginia and the United States, and, as a symbol of the State's appreciation to WVSOM and in honor of its accomplishments and positive impact, it is fitting that the State of West Virginia appropriately recognize WVSOM by proclaiming a specific day in its honor.

**Now, Therefore,** be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *December 12, 2022* as:


### *West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Founders Day*


in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State