

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Food literacy is defined as the understanding of the impact of food choices on health, community, and environment; and

**WHEREAS**, our food choices affect our health: obesity-related conditions are a leading cause of preventable death, and twenty seven percent of Washington adults were obese in 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, our food choices affect our communities: Washington food systems create jobs and raise incomes in the areas they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, our food choices affect the environment: when food items are sold in a more direct way, such as at farmers' markets, the crops don't have to travel as far, saving energy, time and decreasing the demand on transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, a broad approach to nutritional and culinary education is vital to ensure that Washington agriculture continues to flourish and Washington residents make healthier food choices; and

**WHEREAS**, schools, public libraries and booksellers play an important role in promoting healthy reading through sharing and promoting food literacy books and information; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Washington supports food and agriculture education and awareness through a Farm to School Program in the Washington State Department of Agriculture, which works in partnership with state government and non-governmental partners to provide local food access and education to Washington's students; and

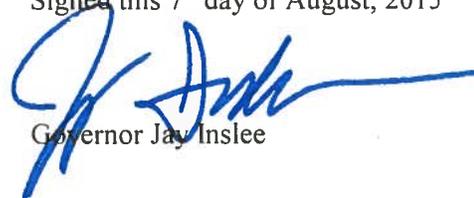
**WHEREAS**, the objective of Food Literacy Month is to promote food education, inspire food choices that are good for people and good for the planet, encourage parental involvement, and motivate communitywide support;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 1-30, 2015 as

### *Food Literacy Month*

in Washington, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015



Governor Jay Inslee

