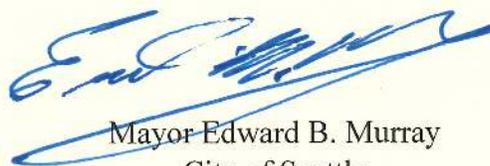


# PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** in 1997, Mayor Norman B. Rice brought together philanthropic partners and Seattle's Office of Economic Development to create the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI); and
- WHEREAS,** SJI believes that self-sufficiency through earning a living wage engenders individual dignity, a sense of belonging and wellness, and is fundamental to a thriving community; and
- WHEREAS,** the population served by SJI faces the interrelated challenges of poverty, lack of education/job skills, lack of proficiency in English, and life situational factors that serve as barriers to securing and retaining decent paying jobs; and
- WHEREAS,** Seattle Jobs Initiative offers low-income individuals training that leads to college credentials in growing local industry sectors by creatively aligning support services – intensive college navigation, housing, childcare and transportation – to provide participants the best opportunity to complete their career pathways and to secure and retain well-paying jobs; and
- WHEREAS,** their objective is to help individuals who live below 200 percent of the federal poverty level to acquire the skills they need to advance out of poverty, while simultaneously meeting the needs of local employers for a skilled workforce; and
- WHEREAS,** SJI works with community colleges and community-based organizations to develop knowledge, tools, best practices and partnerships that will increase access to and persistence in community college among low-income adults, including those who are not yet college-ready; and
- WHEREAS,** on April 27<sup>th</sup>, SJI celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, having served nearly 17,000 people since its inception in 1997 and placing over 7,000 people in living wage jobs;

*NOW, THEREFORE I, EDWARD B. MURRAY, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 27, 2017 TO BE*

## Seattle Jobs Initiative Day



Mayor Edward B. Murray  
City of Seattle

