

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **Annual Start by Believing Day**

**Whereas**, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

**Whereas**, the students, staff and faculty at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University are not immune to sexual assaults, rape and/or attempted rape; and

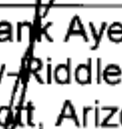
**Whereas**, it is commonly known that incidents of sexual assault and sexual violence are under-reported; and


**Whereas**, research documents that victims are far more likely to disclose their sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when these loved ones respond with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being; and

**Whereas**, the "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign (a program by End Violence Against Women International) is designed to improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals, so they can help victims to access supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system;

**Now Therefore**, I, Dr. Frank Ayers, Chancellor of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, do hereby proclaim, the support of the "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign and do hereby declare the first Wednesday of April each year to be **Start by Believing Day** to show our commitment to the awareness of, prevention and response to sexual violence to all members of our campus community.

Signed and attested to this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017

  
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Dr. Frank Ayers, Chancellor  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Prescott, Arizona

  
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Larry Steppan, Dean of Students  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Prescott, Arizona