

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, under the new administration the state has directed a \$5 million investment in new apprenticeship opportunities offering support for more than 500 apprentices in hundreds of occupations in high-growth and emerging industries; and,

WHEREAS, this investment, since June 2020, has led to the creation of 79 new registered apprentices and has resulted in nearly 300 Illinois companies responding to the call for more skills training that, in turn, supports companies in attracting talent found in our communities; and,

WHEREAS, this is part of a larger \$20 million investment in apprenticeships across a variety of programs, including Illinois Works, a multi-year effort to boost access to careers in the trades supporting the Rebuild Illinois capital plan; and,

WHEREAS, apprenticeship programs represent a long-term workforce and economic development strategy by building a highly-skilled talent pipeline to attract investment by Illinois companies and well-paying jobs for our residents; and,

WHEREAS, apprentices earn a competitive wage, gain knowledge from on-the-job learning and job-related classroom training, connect with mentors, and earn a portable credential within an industry that offers a career pathway for the future; and,

WHEREAS, the Apprenticeship Illinois program supports thousands of residents a year in gaining competitive wages, on-the-job-training and 21st century credentials to access opportunities in high-demand fields; and,

WHEREAS, these programs are more viable now than ever before given record-high unemployment nationwide and given the role they will play in an economic recovery from COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois has nearly 17,000 apprentices in registered apprenticeship programs, offering access to hundreds of occupations in high-growth and emerging industries in every corner of the state; and,

WHEREAS, our apprenticeship training programs prioritize equity and boosting participation among minority and underrepresented groups through new regional partnerships with Illinois community colleges, employers, and apprenticeship navigators; and,

WHEREAS, apprenticeship programs add measurable value for companies by helping employers recruit and develop a diverse and highly-skilled workforce, improve profitability, minimize cost with reduced turnover, increase retention of skilled employees, and foster a diverse and inclusive culture; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois offers a tax incentive for employers who invest in apprenticeship of up to \$5,000 per apprentice per year through the Apprenticeship Education Tax Credit; and,

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is an opportunity to recognize the positive impact apprenticeships have on Illinois youth, adults, businesses, and the Illinois economy as a whole;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 8-14, 2020, as **APPRENTICESHIP WEEK** in Illinois; and be it further resolved that Illinois will continue to take strides forward in expanding these meaningful career pathways and economic prosperity for all of our Illinois residents.

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

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this THIRTEENTH *day of* NOVEMBER, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and SECOND.



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR