

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Illinois is committed to preparing its workforce to meet the changing demands of today's economy, including recovery from COVID-19, and has demonstrated its commitment to creating pathways for residents to obtain in-demand skills through apprenticeship's earn-while-you-learn model; and,

WHEREAS, apprenticeships are a proven career pathway for job seekers of all types and ages, which is why Illinois is focused on growing school-based opportunities as well as more pre-apprenticeship opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois apprentices are employees from the start of their training, learn technical competencies in the classroom and apply them on-the-job with the help of experienced mentors, are appropriately compensated for achieving defined skills gains, and complete their apprenticeships having earned a portable, industry-recognized credential; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois recognizes that robust apprenticeship programs provide tangible value to both employers and apprentices, with the potential to increase productivity and retention, improve diversity and inclusion, and reduce recruitment and onboarding costs while providing a pathway to prosperous careers for job seekers; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois is broadening access and increasing equity in apprenticeships by expanding apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities for underrepresented populations and communities, including but not limited to African American and Hispanic/Latinx, out of school youth, returning residents, youth, individuals with disabilities, women, and older workers; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois community colleges provide an array of work-based learning and apprenticeship opportunities for students providing them with the hands on experience, training, and instruction necessary to obtain in-demand jobs; and,

WHEREAS, this past year, the State of Illinois has established a first of its kind Office of Illinois Works to diversify and expand access to apprenticeship opportunities within the construction and building trades so that more residents can be a part of the efforts to rebuild our state with capital development projects; and,

WHEREAS, with our administration's extensive investments in apprenticeships, combined with federal funding, and with State's Apprenticeship Education Tax Credit, Illinois today applauds the nearly 500 employers offering registered apprenticeships to over 16,000 apprentices in occupations in high-growth and emerging industries; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor's National Apprenticeship Week is an opportunity to celebrate the positive impact apprenticeships have on Illinois youth, adults, businesses, and the Illinois economy as a whole;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 15-19, 2021, as **National Apprenticeship Week** in Illinois in support of meaningful career pathways which increase economic prosperity for our state.

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 NINTH day of NOVEMBER, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-ONE, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and THIRD.



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR