



## AFA E-Digest: September 25th, 2024

### Only 53 days Until National Apprenticeship Week

From Nov 17th-23rd, the apprenticeship field celebrates its 10th annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW). NAW offers you the opportunity to highlight the life-changing impact that apprenticeship has on millions of Americans.

Apprenticeships for America is prepared to help make your NAW event a success. If you plan to host a National Apprenticeship Week event, please notify Rene Bryce-Laporte, Director of Membership Services at [rene.bryce-laporte@apprenticeshipsforamerica.org](mailto:rene.bryce-laporte@apprenticeshipsforamerica.org). Rene and the AFA team can help ensure your representatives in Congress receive invitations to the event, so let us know if you'd like assistance with that. Finally, the AFA team would love to attend events as we are able, so don't forget to include us in your invites!

Check out the [US Department of Labor National Apprenticeship Week website](#) for details and ideas on how to make the best use of this week.

### Report Now Available: How Community Colleges Can Help Scale US Apprenticeships

Today, AFA releases our latest report, How Community Colleges Can Help Scale US Apprenticeships: Evidence from the Field. This comprehensive report explores the vital role community colleges play in expanding apprenticeship programs nationwide, featuring case studies and actionable strategies to support workforce development.

Access the full report through the link on our [website](#).



### AFA 2025 Summit - Call for Sessions

AFA's annual Apprenticeship Summit is coming! On Feb 5-6, 2025, AFA will host its second annual convening. AFA seeks proposals for session ideas. Presentation at the Summit will offer you a chance to highlight your work, build your network and engage members of the field in discussion. We are particularly interested in submissions that highlight national or local community practice, policy priorities, meaningful research, skills development or field resources. Presenters will also receive a discounted registration rate. To apply: please fill out this [Google Form](#)

Submissions are due October 15th. Please direct any questions to Rene Bryce-Laporte at [rene.bryce-laporte@apprenticeshipsforamerica.org](mailto:rene.bryce-laporte@apprenticeshipsforamerica.org)

# Apprenticeships in the News

## In the States



California's apprenticeship programs have seen significant growth due to increased funding and state support. [A report from the California Community College Chancellor's Office](#) analyzes this progress and offers strategies to further expand access, equity, and economic opportunities for residents through apprenticeships.

[A coalition of nearly 200 Indiana leaders has unveiled the CEMETS iLab Indiana plan to expand apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities](#) for high school students. The initiative aims to address talent shortages by creating a new education pathway that integrates classroom instruction with on-the-job experience, with the goal of reaching 50,000 students by 2034. The plan, modeled after Switzerland's apprenticeship system, will launch in the 2025-2026 school year and focus on high-need industries such as healthcare, banking, and manufacturing.

[New Hampshire recently the nation's first federally-approved childcare center director apprenticeship.](#) The Early Childhood Director Apprenticeship, developed in partnership with the Community College System of New Hampshire, addresses the state's childcare shortage by providing participants with two years of paid work and courses covering business management, marketing, and recruitment. The program, designed to foster career growth and expand childcare capacity, is funded through federal scholarships and covers program-related expenses.

[Pennsylvania has announced a \\$450,000 grant to strengthen registered pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs across the state.](#) The funding will foster new partnerships and expand existing ones, aiming to develop sustainable career pathways and improve the state's workforce capabilities. Over the next two years, the grant will support local and regional apprenticeship networks, training 40 individuals to become Apprenticeship Navigators, helping expand opportunities for historically underserved populations. Applications are due on October 18.

[Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt has established a new task force to explore strategies for enhancing student academic and workforce skills.](#) Led by State Secretary of Education Nellie Sanders, the Human Potential for Future Industries Task Force will focus on expanding apprenticeship programs, tailoring curricula to student interests, and integrating real-world experiences with emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. The task force aims to align education with workforce demands, although some concerns have been raised about its structure and resources.



## Industry-Specific Apprenticeship Developments

[The Virginia Department of Health \(VDH\) has awarded over \\$4.5 million to support the Earn to Learn Nursing Education Acceleration Program](#), aimed at addressing nursing shortages across Virginia. This apprenticeship-style initiative enables nursing students to earn stipends while gaining hands-on clinical experience at partner hospitals. The program, which involves multiple community colleges and universities, aims to increase nursing enrollments and produce more practice-ready Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs).

[CTC and the Communications Workers of America \(CWA\) have partnered to launch a broadband technician apprenticeship program](#) in Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota. The program, which combines hands-on and online training, is designed to train new workers in areas such as equipment installation and safety. Approved by the U.S. Department of Labor, this initiative aims to meet the growing demand for skilled broadband technicians as states invest in nationwide broadband expansion.

## Legislative and Policy Updates

[A recent Biden Administration Executive Order calls on federal agencies to prioritize workforce development projects](#) that expand access to high-quality training and credentials through partnerships like registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs. It emphasizes the role of joint labor-management programs and community organizations, such as community colleges, in creating pathways to good jobs. Additionally, the order supports providing essential services, such as child care and transportation, to ensure successful workforce participation. The Executive Order complements an Executive Order aimed at issued earlier this year that encourages the use of apprenticeship among federal workers, contractors, and grantees.



## AFA and Members in the News

[Western Governors University \(WGU\) has expanded its work-based learning efforts](#) with the acquisition of Craft Education to drive the development of apprenticeship degrees. This initiative aims to integrate on-the-job training with competency-based degree programs, starting with teacher education and extending into healthcare and IT. As **John Colborn** of Apprenticeships for America noted in the press coverage, these apprenticeship degrees provide a relevant curriculum and employer support, offering significant growth potential across diverse fields like business services and engineering.

[A recent op-ed from Bruno Manno of the Progressive Policy Institute](#) highlights the importance of expanding apprenticeship programs as part of a broader effort to create multiple education and career pathways for working Americans without college degrees. The article advocates for increasing registered apprenticeships in the U.S., which currently lags behind countries like Germany and Australia, and emphasizes the need for additional federal support. It also suggests integrating work-based learning into educational systems,

allowing Pell Grants to support short-term workforce training, and promoting skill-based hiring practices to ensure broader access to career advancement opportunities.

