



AFA E-Digest: April 16th, 2024



AFA Hosts “Pay for Success” Design Sessions

What should a federal pay-for-success apprenticeship funding model look like? In its passage of the 2024 federal budget, Congress asked the Department of Labor to present its best ideas on this question.

AFA is hosting design sessions in May to get input on this question which we plan to share with the Department. These hour-long charettes will explore how such a program might work and how the federal government should pilot such an idea. Spots are limited, so sign up early using the links below.

May 2 nd at 2:00pm ET – Sign up [here](#)

May 9 th at 2:00pm ET – Sign up [here](#)

May 15 th at 2:00pm ET – Sign up [here](#)

Featured Resource: NYC Funding Availability - Due May 8th

[In an effort to connect 30,000 New Yorkers with apprenticeships by 2030](#), Mayor Eric Adams' administration has released three funding opportunities aimed at expanding and diversifying apprenticeship programs. Interested parties must respond to the Request for Information and two Requests for Proposals by May 8, 2024, to help address workforce challenges and create pathways to in-demand jobs. For details and to apply, visit the [Workforce Development Corporation's website](#).

Apprenticeships in the News

In the States

In the latest legislative move in Colorado, [HB 1439](#) introduced by Representative Jenny Willford aims to bolster apprenticeships by replacing an existing school-to-career tax credit with a new incentive for employers hiring apprentices, and by establishing grants for promising apprenticeship programs. The bill will be reviewed by the House Finance Committee on April 15, signaling a strategic shift to support workforce development through apprenticeships.



[Governor Glenn Youngkin has signed SB 436](#), a pivotal workforce development bill in Virginia, aimed at enhancing the state's economic landscape by expanding apprenticeship opportunities and making industry-recognized credentials more accessible. This legislation underscores Virginia's commitment to building a skilled, resilient workforce, thus bolstering the state's competitiveness and future prosperity.



Industry-Specific Apprenticeship Developments

[South Texas College is launching the nation's first federally-approved registered nurse apprenticeship program](#), a strategic response to the critical nursing shortage exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative, backed by a \$15M investment from the Texas Workforce Commission, integrates earning and learning, aiming to make nursing education more accessible and sustainable, particularly for first-generation students in a predominantly Latino region.

[In Philadelphia, efforts to boost female representation in welding](#), where women constitute just 8% of the workforce, are gaining ground through targeted apprenticeship programs. Community College of Philadelphia's welding program, for instance, has effectively guided participants like Camyra Sawyer from training to well-paid apprenticeships, thereby empowering more women to enter and thrive in this traditionally male-dominated field.

[Amid rapid advancements in the fashion industry, several luxury brands are embracing traditional craftsmanship through apprenticeships](#). By investing in slow, artisanal methods and collaborating with skilled craftsmen, brands like Sarah Flint are creating unique, high-quality products. These efforts not only preserve valuable traditional skills but also emphasize the importance of apprenticeships in fostering the next generation of artisans in the fashion sector.

Other Stories

[Trident Technical College's Charleston Regional Youth Apprenticeships \(CRYA\)](#) is adapting to its growth by planning to develop an app to streamline data tracking for apprentices' progress and stakeholder communication. Amidst broader trends, the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA) has initiated a study to explore and improve technology adoption in youth apprenticeship programs, recognizing the need for efficient technology solutions to manage the increasing complexity and scale of these programs.

Members in the News

[In the article "Skills Training for the Undegreed" by Paul Fain](#), virtual training for high-demand skilled trades is highlighted as increasingly adopted by community colleges. The piece covers the strategic utilization of AI to support non-degree holders in transitioning careers, updates on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and the evolving landscape of apprenticeship programs. The article includes insights from our executive director, John Colborn, on the significance of modernizing apprenticeship frameworks to bolster economic opportunities and workforce readiness.

[The National Institute for Innovation and Technology has awarded GlobalFoundries and Applied Materials, Inc.](#) for pioneering the first semiconductor manufacturing Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) in the U.S. These programs, recognized for significantly enhancing the semiconductor talent pipeline, are key components of the Institute's efforts to advance skill-based learning and employment in the industry.

