



## AFA E-Digest: August 21st, 2024

### Upcoming Webinar: Members-Only Sneak Peek at Research on Community Colleges and Apprenticeship



On **August 29th at 3 PM ET**, Apprenticeships for America (AFA) will host an exclusive webinar for members, offering a sneak peek at its upcoming research paper on Community Colleges and apprenticeships. The report reviews case studies from a number of community colleges and explores the opportunities and challenges of these institutions as apprenticeship intermediaries. The webinar will also feature leaders from the profiled colleges who will share insights and answer questions.

If you're not yet an AFA member, membership is free and easy to obtain by completing a brief [survey](#), after which you'll receive access to the webinar registration. For membership and registration inquiries, contact Rene Bryce-Laporte at [rene.brycelaporte@apprenticeshipsforamerica.org](mailto:rene.brycelaporte@apprenticeshipsforamerica.org).

### Save the date: Colorado Apprenticeships Convening

AFA will be hosting a half-day event on *Making Colorado the Leading State for Apprenticeships*. The session will include remarks from Ryan Craig. Craig, author of *Apprentice Nation*, as well as opportunities to connect Colorado's business and human resources community leaders with apprenticeship intermediaries.

**Note:** The event on "Making Colorado the Leading State for Apprenticeships with Ryan Craig" is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 16** (previously mentioned as Thursday). The event will take place from 1 PM to 4 PM at the Denver Sheraton, followed by a networking reception.

There is no cost to participate in the convening, but please indicate your interest in attending [here](#). A full agenda will follow soon. We look forward to your participation!

Questions? Reach out to us [here](#).

### Last Chance! Add your organization to AFA's letter to the Congressional appropriators.

Last Chance! Add your organization to AFA's letter to the Congressional appropriators. On July 28, the House Appropriations Committee released their first draft bill for fiscal year 2025, which includes drastic reductions in funding for registered apprenticeship and training programs.

The bill aims to cut critical funding to hallmark programs in the Department of Labor (DOL), including but not limited to:

- Cutting \$948 million for the Youth Job Training program and \$538 million for training and employment services for adults in Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA);
- Reducing funding for National Apprenticeship Act activities by \$135 million, a 47% decrease from the previous year (\$285 million in FY 2024); and Eliminating the DOL's Women's Bureau, a \$23 million reduction in funding, which among other initiatives would dissolve the Women in Apprenticeship and
- Nontraditional Occupations ( WANTO ) program. These reductions threaten to dismantle vital programs that provide job training and career opportunities for young people, career changers, and underemployed and unemployed workers.

The Senate's appropriation proposal was approved in Committee just last week. It provides \$290 million for apprenticeship. Importantly, the committee report on the bill continues to encourage the Department of Labor to explore the feasibility of a pay for success funding approach, a key policy interest of Apprenticeships for America.

AFA is asking all who care about growing apprenticeship in the United States to sign on to a letter to the chairs of the House and Senate Committees requesting consideration of the higher Senate funding amount. The sign-on process takes about 30 seconds and helps strengthen AFA's efforts to argue for continued funding for apprenticeship. To add your name, click [here](#) before the August 23 deadline.

## Apprenticeships in the News

### In the States

[Indiana is collaborating with experts from ETH Zurich, a leading Swiss institution, to expand student apprenticeships statewide](#), aiming to grow from 500 to 50,000 over the next decade. This initiative seeks to integrate career training into high school education by adopting Swiss models where businesses have a say in the skills students learn, allowing students to work part-time while completing their studies. The goal is to create pathways for upward mobility and address the demand for skilled labor, particularly in industries like healthcare, manufacturing, and IT.

[Governor JB Pritzker, alongside the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, announced \\$15 million in funding for 33 organizations through the Job Training and Economic Development Program \(JTED\)](#). This funding aims to support workforce training and provide wrap-around services to help those most affected by COVID-19, including immigrants, justice-involved individuals, and rural residents. The program focuses on sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, and healthcare, aiming to address labor shortages and support equitable workforce recovery across Illinois.



[In North Carolina, apprenticeship programs saw significant growth in the 2023-2024 fiscal year](#), with a 45% increase in registered apprentice enrollments and a 50% rise in pre-apprentice enrollments. The state's ApprenticeshipNC registered nearly 5,000 apprentices and over 1,700 pre-apprentices across various high-demand fields. Additionally, Parkland College, in partnership with Kraft Heinz, launched the first U.S. Department of Labor-registered apprenticeship program for mechanical line technicians, combining on-the-job training with industrial mechanics curriculum.

[A new report from the Tennessee Comptroller highlights the significant role that community and technical colleges play in the state's growing registered apprenticeship programs](#). These institutions, including Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and community colleges, often act as sponsors or employers in these programs, providing essential educational experiences. The report also notes the substantial growth in the number of active apprentices in Tennessee, with participation doubling from 2014 to 2023, and underscores the state's innovative efforts, such as the "Grow Your Own" teacher apprenticeship initiative.



## Industry-Specific Apprenticeship Developments

[The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration \(FMCSA\) has launched a pilot apprenticeship program](#) allowing 18-to-20-year-olds to drive semi-trucks across state lines under supervision. The initiative, mandated by Congress to address the truck driver shortage, involves rigorous safety training and monitoring, with a limit of 3,000 participants. Safety advocates express concerns about the higher crash rates among younger drivers, while the trucking industry supports the program as a solution to meet increasing freight demands. The program's outcomes will be reviewed after three years to determine its effectiveness and safety.

[Ingalls Shipbuilding's apprenticeship program exemplifies how employers can address skilled labor shortages](#) by offering comprehensive, debt-free training that appeals to both young and mid-career individuals. As interest in apprenticeships grows, challenges remain, particularly in navigating bureaucratic regulations that may deter potential sponsors. Despite this, the program's success highlights the importance of apprenticeships in building a skilled workforce capable of meeting industry demands.

[Insight Global has launched the Semiconductor Apprenticeship Acceleration Program \(SAAP\)](#), a U.S. Department of Labor-approved initiative aimed at addressing the talent shortages in the semiconductor industry. The program, developed in collaboration with the National Institute for Industry and Career Advancement, offers an 18-to-24-month curriculum that combines hands-on training with comprehensive education, preparing participants for immediate roles in the sector. The SAAP is designed to provide businesses with scalable, skilled talent solutions while offering enhanced benefits for veterans.

[North Dakota's registered principal apprenticeship program, launched in 2023, aims to address principal turnover, improve school climate, and support teacher retention](#) by providing on-the-job training for aspiring principals. Funded through federal grants, the program allows participants to pursue a master's degree while being mentored by experienced principals. The model is gaining traction, with other states like Rhode Island, Ohio, and Virginia planning similar initiatives. Early results indicate that investing in principal leadership can have a positive impact on both staff retention and student achievement.

## Other Stories

[The growing interest in trade careers among women is reshaping traditionally male-dominated fields](#) such as electrical work, auto repair, and welding. Enrollment in vocational programs surged by 16% last year, highlighting a significant shift as more women pursue these high-demand, well-paying trades. In 2020, women made up 11.6% of all apprenticeship program completions in the U.S., reflecting a gradual increase in female participation in these industries. Programs like Women Who Weld are playing a crucial role in supporting this trend by providing targeted training opportunities for women entering the trades.

[Susan Kazama, recently appointed as the official chancellor of Hawai'i Community College \(Hawai'i CC\), aims to strengthen apprenticeship and internship opportunities for students](#) through partnerships with community organizations. Kazama is particularly focused on expanding career technical education pathways, such as dual enrollment and Early College, allowing high school students to earn college credentials before graduation, thereby enhancing their employment prospects.

## Members in the News

[Fastport has reached a significant milestone with the registration of its 25,000th apprentice](#), Takoda McDonald, a military veteran who transitioned to a civilian career as a Diesel Technician through Ryder's Pathway Home Apprenticeship Program. Fastport's collaborative approach, involving partnerships with over 300 organizations, continues to strengthen the workforce by providing structured apprenticeship opportunities across the Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics sectors.

---

**Note:** E-Digest will be taking a brief end-of-summer break and will not publish an edition during the week of September 2. We will resume our regular publication schedule the following week.

