

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by Governor Bill Walker

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship training programs have an illustrious history in Alaska, dating back to the national Fitzgerald Act of 1937, which created America's apprenticeship training system; and

WHEREAS, apprenticeship is a unique, flexible training system that combines job-related technical instruction with structured, paid on-the-job learning experiences, and Registered Apprenticeships increase the number of trained workers, directly contributing to higher rates of Alaska hire and lower rates of unemployment; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs prepare Alaska's workers to compete in a 21st Century economy through training that keeps pace with advancing technologies and work-based innovations; and

WHEREAS, more than 1200 Alaskan employers hire Registered Apprentices today and offer training in Alaska for 180 technical occupations including construction, transportation, communications, seafood processing, health care, maritime, oil, gas, and mining occupations, and Alaska employers have created approximately 200 new apprenticeships over the past year; and

WHEREAS, Alaska colleges and universities are linking college credit with apprenticeship related instruction, ensuring apprentices can earn wages while pursuing a degree; and

WHEREAS, apprentice training provides an on-ramp for students and adults where they can earn good wages and obtain occupational licenses and college degrees while on their way to high-skilled, high-paying jobs. Alaskans who complete Registered Apprenticeship program graduates earn, on average, more than \$80,000 annually, 42 percent higher than the statewide average wage; and

WHEREAS, expansion of Registered Apprenticeship in health care and other high-growth industries is a central element of the State's efforts to sustain economic security for working families, and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board and Alaska Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee have established Registered Apprenticeship as a top priority for workforce development.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim November 13-19, 2017 as:

Alaska Apprenticeship Week

in Alaska, and thank employers, labor unions, community partners, and the federal government for their collective work to help develop Alaska's workforce using Registered Apprenticeships.

Dated: October 27, 2017



Bill Walker

*Bill Walker, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.*