WHEREAS, the demand for skilled workers continues to increase, the modern Registered Apprenticeship system is a proven method to meet this demand and helps La Plata County prepare for economic development and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, apprenticeship is a unique, flexible training system that combines job-related technical instruction with structured, paid, on-the-job learning experiences. Modern Registered Apprenticeship contributes to increased hiring rates and lower unemployment by adding to the number of trained workers; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship training programs prepare La Plata County's workers to compete in our changing economy. The training keeps pace with advancing technologies and work-based innovations; and

WHEREAS, today, in La Plata County employers, business associations and unions sponsor modern, registered apprenticeship programs which are up to date with technology. There are approximately 15 active apprentices training in skilled occupations; and

WHEREAS, over the years, hundreds of individuals in La Plata County have completed a registered apprenticeship in both union and non-union programs; and

WHEREAS, La Plata County employers have participated in apprenticeship programs since the late 1930's teaching skills that result in rewarding careers; and

WHEREAS, modern apprentice training is a way to obtain training, occupational licensing and earn a livable wage.

THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of La Plata County does hereby proclaim the week of November 12 – 18, 2018 to be “APPRENTICESHIP WEEK” throughout La Plata County.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado this 23rd day of October, 2018.

Gwen Lachelt, Chair

Bradford P. Blake, Vice-Chair

Julie Westendorff, Commissioner