



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 14-20, 2016

National Apprenticeship Week

In California, formal state-registered apprenticeship training programs have been an integral part of efforts to promote a highly trained workforce for more than 75 years. The state's apprenticeship system brings together industry, labor, education and government to increase career opportunities for Californians while meeting employers' needs for skilled workers.

Apprenticeship programs provide on-the-job training and technical instruction in which the apprentice learns while doing and earns while learning. This approach to training for skilled occupations was formalized by the state in 1939 with the enactment of the Shelley-Maloney Apprentice Labor Standards Act, which established standards for apprenticeship training programs. Today, 75,000 apprentices statewide are being trained in more than 800 occupations, making California's apprenticeship system the nation's largest and one of the fastest-growing, with a 20 percent increase in active apprentices last year.

Given the significance of apprenticeship to the state's workforce development system, the apprenticeship model must continue to adapt to changes in our economy. The budget I signed in June continues funding to expand existing apprenticeship programs and to create new programs in nontraditional occupations and emerging industries that have unmet labor demands.

This year's "National Apprenticeship Week" will take place November 14-20 to acknowledge the great contributions of formal registered apprenticeships to the nation's ability to build a strong middle class by increasing the number of skilled workers available for employers.

I urge all Californians to recognize the value of registered apprenticeship to the economic well-being of our state, its workers and its employers. I also encourage all employers in California to explore the potential of apprenticeship as a way to grow their business, meet their needs for skilled personnel and offer opportunities for their employees to advance in their careers.

Sincerely,


EDMUND G. BROWN JR.