

September 9, 2015

FACT SHEET: American Apprenticeship Grants

Providing more Americans with affordable access to education and job training opportunities to help grow the middle class

The US Department of Labor is committed to creating more opportunities for hard-working Americans to get ahead by advancing job-driven training initiatives that help American workers acquire the skills they need to succeed in good jobs that are available now. Hands-on apprenticeships, where workers earn and learn at the same time, are a proven path to good, secure middle-class jobs. In fact, 87 percent of apprentices are employed after completing their programs, with an average starting wage above \$50,000. The return on investment for employers is also impressive — studies from around the globe suggest that for every dollar spent on apprenticeship, employers get an average of \$1.47 back in increased productivity, reduced waste and greater front-line innovation. The \$175 million in American Apprenticeship Grants that were announced will help train and hire more than 34,000 new apprentices in high-growth and high-tech industries as diverse as health care, IT and advanced manufacturing while scaling up proven programs in construction, transportation and energy in the next five years.

American Apprenticeship Grants will help expand apprenticeships into growing industries while also aligning apprenticeship with pathways for further learning and career advancement, scaling apprenticeship models that work, and providing access to apprenticeship for all of America's talent. For example:

- **Silicon Valley High Tech Apprenticeship Initiative (Santa Clara, CA):** Led by Mission College, this IT apprenticeship will train more than 300 apprentices to deploy and maintain the critical IT systems and infrastructure now ubiquitous in everyday life in partnership with some of the biggest developers of those systems including Cisco Systems and VMWare.
- **AHIMA Managing the Talent Pipeline in Health Information Management (national program):** Working with healthcare employers ranging from Pfizer to the Seattle Children's Hospital, the AHIMA Foundation is using a competency-based, on-the-job apprenticeship training program in healthcare informatics to help recent college graduates and career changers break into well-paying healthcare data management careers.
- **OpenTech Los Angeles Regional Apprenticeship Collaborative (Los Angeles):** In partnership with employers such as DIRECTV, Toyota, Farmers Insurance, and AltaMed, this apprenticeship program is setting a goal to train 1,000 at-risk youth for careers in high-growth IT and biotechnology jobs.
- **Focus: HOPE American Apprenticeship Program (Detroit):** Focus: HOPE has been a leading nonprofit community training provider in Detroit for over twenty years. Its adult education programs help workers acquire the gateway skills needed to advance to better employment. With its American Apprenticeship Grant, Focus: HOPE will expand these proven programs while adding new disciplines to keep up with the changing technology powering advanced manufacturing jobs.

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• **International Transportation Learning Center (Silver Spring, MD):** Partnering with Wider Opportunities for Women and the Amalgamated Transit Union, the International Transportation Learning Center will expand apprenticeship programs proven to yield a safety and performance dividend in transit rail industries. The grants will scale up their apprenticeship for signal maintainers and transit coach operators to nearly 1,300 workers in metropolitan areas nationwide. The American Apprenticeship Grants build on tremendous progress underway. Action from employers, colleges, labor, states and local governments are also building on that momentum.

• **Employers, colleges, and labor leading on apprenticeship:** More than 140 employers, colleges, and labor organizations have signed on to be ApprenticeshipUSA LEADERS (Leaders of Excellence in Apprenticeship Development, Education and Research) by expanding their own training programs and encouraging their peers to follow. Together, employers in the LEADERS program have pledged to create nearly 20,000 new apprenticeship positions. During National Apprenticeship Week, which starts November 2, 2015 across the country, these LEADERS will showcase their efforts at open houses for workers interested in apprenticeship.

• **States and local governments taking homegrown action to expand apprenticeship:** Fourteen states, through leadership from governors, mayors, and state representatives have expanded apprenticeship by more than 20 percent. In Michigan, leaders launched a statewide skilled trades training fund to support apprenticeship. In California, where unlocked additional funds now cover training costs. In Kentucky, a novel, statewide youth apprenticeship program was created.

• **Colleges awarding double credit by linking apprenticeship to college degrees:** More than 200 colleges nationwide have joined the Registered Apprenticeship College Consortium (RACC) by awarding college credit towards a degree for completion of an apprenticeship program.