REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP
COLLEGE CONSORTIUM (RACC)

Overview
RACC is a network of colleges and apprenticeship programs that work together to provide enhanced educational opportunities to a significant number of apprentices across the country. Through the consortium, colleges agree to provide credit for an apprenticeship completion certificate towards an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree as recommended by a recognized third party evaluator. While there are currently thousands of existing articulation agreements between a single college and local apprenticeship program, the consortium will create a national network to help expand opportunities for apprentices to complete their postsecondary degrees at member colleges. The RACC is a joint initiative by the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Education.

RACC Goals
✓ Provide apprentices with an accelerated pathway to earn an associate’s or bachelor’s degree;
✓ Create a new pipeline of degree seekers to increase graduation rates;
✓ Enhance the competitiveness of businesses by enlarging the pool of highly-trained workers;
✓ Strengthen relationships among apprenticeship and postsecondary institutions nationwide; and
✓ Enhance national understanding of and responses to the needs of apprentices as another working student population.

Why should Colleges Join the RACC?
In today’s economy, individuals are looking for flexible avenues to obtain credentials, career opportunities and greater earning potential. By joining the RACC, institutions will have access to apprenticeship graduates who may want to complete a degree to move further up a career path. Graduates of apprenticeship programs are a highly motivated pool of degree seekers. Having gone through the rigor and structure of an apprenticeship, they are likely to easily complete a college degree.

What is Apprenticeship?
Apprenticeship is a proven and structured “earn and learn” model that pairs paid on-the-job learning with related technical classroom instruction in any number of career fields. Apprenticeship offers job seekers immediate employment opportunities that usually pay higher than average wages and offer continued career growth. Apprentices earn a portable credential from the Department of Labor that is recognized by the Department of Education. Programs are offered by tens of thousands of employers, employer associations and labor-management organizations that use the model to prepare highly-skilled workers ready to meet current industry specifications, ensure workplace safety, and increase productivity. Apprenticeship crosses a wide sector of industries that include construction, energy, manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, hospitality, telecommunications, and information technology. Over 550,000 apprentices are trained each year.

How Do I Join?
Joining the RACC is a click away through the streamlined application process, available on the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship homepage, www.dol.gov/apprenticeship. For further information please email Apprenticeship.College@dol.gov.