

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF ROCK ISLAND, HENRY AND MERCER  
COUNTIES, NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION  
NAW PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of raising awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeships provide in creating opportunities by allowing apprentices to earn while they learn and preparing a pathway to good, quality jobs and well-paying careers in Rock Island, Henry, and Mercer Counties and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Development Board of Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties, Not-For-Profit Corporation recognizes the urgent need to prepare and maintain an inclusive, diverse and highly skilled workforce that is capable of meeting the demands of the industry we serve and fortifying our economy; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering career seekers pathways to good, quality jobs and well-paying careers; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Development Board of Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties, Not-For-Profit Corporation recognizes the role of Registered Apprenticeship in expanding opportunities in our workforce that are inclusive of individuals who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality, thus providing a path for all qualified individuals, including women, youth, people of color, rural communities, justice-involved individuals and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to America's industries; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Development Board of Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties, Not-For-Profit Corporation recognizes that Registered Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model is recognized as a key strategy to improving job quality, and creating access to good-paying, family-sustaining jobs for all, starting with youth and young adults, while addressing some of our nation's pressing workforce challenges such as rebuilding our country's infrastructure, addressing critical supply chain demands, supporting a clean energy workforce, modernizing our cybersecurity response, and responding to care economy issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chris Caves, Chair of the Workforce Development Board of Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties, Not-For-Profit Corporation, call upon workforce development stakeholders to recognize the value of Registered Apprenticeship, and to promote industry awareness and expansion during the 10th anniversary of National Apprenticeship Week: November 17 through November 23, 2024.

IN SUPPORT,

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

The logo for American Job Center features the words "American" and "Center" in blue, with "Job" in red. A red star is positioned above the "o" in "Job", and a blue arc curves over the top of the text.

Chris Caves  
Board Chair, Workforce Development Board of Rock Island, Henry and Mercer Counties

*Chris Caves*