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APPRENTICESHIP ILLINOIS COMMITTEE July 2023 UPDATES

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Apprenticeship News in Illinois



WAND HELPING PAWS CHANGES LIVES
LOGAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER, LOGAN COUNTY
Chicago Cubs Houston 6:10 PM

[IDOC Program Works to Reduce Recidivism, Give Back to the Community](#)



[DiverseTech Apprenticeship Program to Grow Chicago's Tech Talent](#)



[DRW Apprenticeship Program Wants People of Color in Tech](#)



[Governor Pritzker Announces \\$10 Million for Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#)



[ComEd Launches Program to Train Next-Gen Electric Utility Technical Talent](#)



[District 214 Prepares Students for Careers in Healthcare](#)

Apprenticeship News Across the Country



[Cross-Agency Cooperation and New Funding Opportunities to Support Youth Apprenticeship](#)



[Southern Florida College to Fill Gap for More Certified Solar Workers](#)



[Camden Schools Have Launched a Teacher Apprenticeship Program to Tap Local Talent](#)



[Getting Their Feet Wet:](#)



[Crown Apprenticeship Program Gives Students a Head Start After Graduation](#)

[Kentucky Rural Water Association's High School Apprentices Get Training in High-Demand Industry](#)

Have information to share? Email apprenticeship@illinoisworknet.com

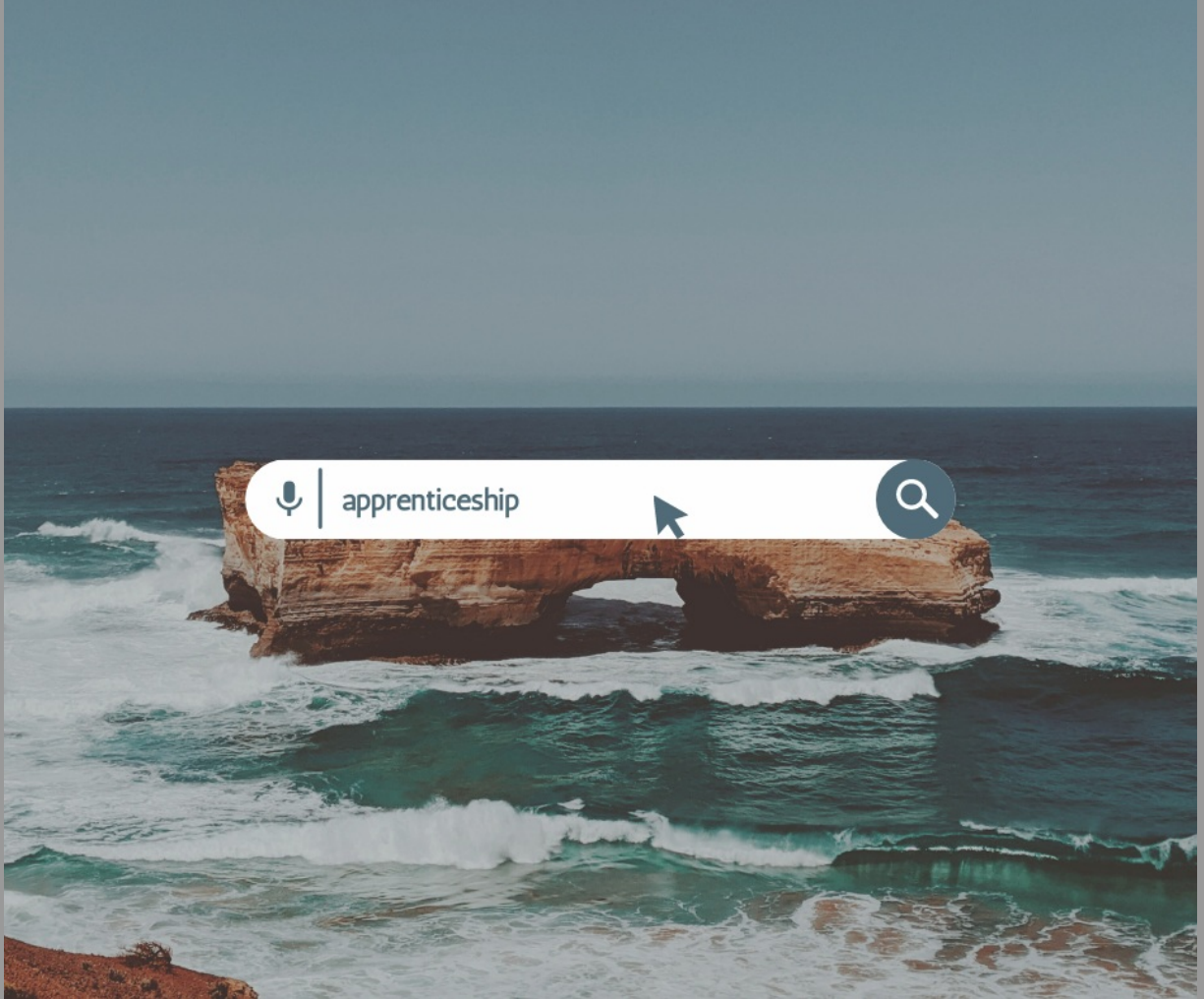
Follow [ApprentiScope](#) for national apprenticeship news.

Apprenticeship Podcasts

- The Partnership on Inclusive Apprenticeship's [Apprenticeship for All](#) podcast series explores how inclusive apprenticeship programs are increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- [Professional Apprenticeship's Podcast](#) provides the latest news on apprenticeship, conversations with current apprentices and employers, and more.
- JFF offers a podcast looking at the [challenges and opportunities of youth apprenticeship](#).
- [Apprentice Talks](#) is "a podcast made to educate, inform and give insight into what it's really like to be an apprentice and juggle multiple worlds."
- [The Fresh Apprentice*](#)
- [The HVAC Apprentice*](#)
- [Future is Health*](#) is a Healthcare Youth Apprenticeship Intermediary. Their podcast can help someone understand apprenticeship programs and how students, employers, and stakeholders can benefit from developing careers through apprenticeship
- [Apprentice Worldwide Podcast](#) was created to empower young professionals to succeed in business and life. It will feature ideas, interviews, and career advice.

These podcasts require the creation of a free account

Looking for an Apprenticeship?



Check out the Becoming an Apprentice pages on the [Apprenticeship Illinois](#) website. Find information about the [industries and occupations sponsoring apprenticeships](#). Use the [USDOL apprenticeship finder tool](#) or learn more about [specific Illinois apprenticeship initiatives](#) that are funded by the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Email apprenticeship@illinoisworknet.com for more information.

Have an apprenticeship opportunity to share? Email apprenticeship@illinoisworknet.com

Save the Date: Upcoming Events



National Apprenticeship Week 2023

Check out the Apprenticeship Illinois National Apprenticeship Week 2023 website [here!](#)

Apprenticeship Employer Information

Did you know that there is a tax credit for businesses with apprentices?
Effective January 1, 2020, employers are allowed a tax credit for qualified

educational expenses associated with qualifying apprentices. Employers may receive a credit of up to \$3,500 per apprentice against the taxes imposed by subsections (a) and (b) of Section 201 of the Illinois Income Tax Act, and an additional credit of up to \$1,500 for each apprentice if (1) the apprentice resides in an underserved area or (2) the employer's principal place of business is located in an underserved area.

Want to learn more about how apprenticeship works for businesses? For information and resources, visit Employer Information at www.apprenticeshipillinois.com!

Apprenticeship Employer Spotlight

ICATT

APPRENTICESHIP
PROGRAM

This month, Apprenticeship Illinois is excited to highlight the Industry Consortium for Advanced Technical Training, or for short, ICATT. The program was established by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACC Midwest) in 2015 and contains a network of upwards of 120 companies throughout the Midwest. ICATT develops comprehensive apprenticeship programs that address the growing skills gap, high recruitment costs, and retention challenges faced by employers. Many of their apprentices work in a variety of manufacturing fields, such as the automotive, medical, food and beverage, airspace industry, and many more.

How does the training program work?

Apprentices spend around 70% of the apprenticeship learning on-the-job practical skills under the guidance of experienced trainers at their company. The program's structure ensures that apprentices start with a solid foundation in basic skills. As they progress through the program, they receive training in more advanced tasks. Each step of the way, apprentices are guided by experienced company trainers equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their chosen fields and ensuring a steady talent-to-experts pipeline for their companies.

Why apprenticeship?

ICATT companies are bridging the skills gap and seeing an increase in employee retention, which, in turn, decreases recruitment costs long-term. The program's roots in dual education system, which combines practical on-the-job training with theoretical learning, creates highly trained, well-rounded, and versatile employees.

More about the program...

As mentioned previously, ICATT is managed, promoted, and overseen by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest. ICATT strives to cultivate a loyal, highly skilled, and technically advanced workforce for their member companies. ICATT is the leading apprenticeship program for manufacturers and companies with complex administrative processes. It is the largest program fully

benchmarked on the German Dual Education System- an approach recognized globally for producing highly trained, adaptable employees with company-specific knowledge.

What is the best part?

By recognizing the pressing need for skilled and talented workers who can keep up with technological advancements and industry demands, ICATT attracts companies who want to tackle the skills gap and increased workforce retention head-on. By transforming recruiting strategies effectively and sustainably, the program has experienced explosive growth in recent years.

For more information on this program, please visit:

<https://www.icattapprenticeships.com/>



Know of a great apprenticeship program? Let us know about it. Apprenticeship Illinois celebrates a new apprenticeship employer every month.

Email your submissions to apprenticeship@illinoisworknet.com

Success Story of the Month from ApprenticeshipIllinois.com



"Malinda Cooks is a mother to two children. In February 2020, she was hired as an Inpatient Pharmacy Technician at BJC–Memorial Hospital in Belleville. In March 2022, Malinda entered the Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship and began taking classes at Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC).

According to Cooks, "I chose to pursue the apprenticeship program because I wanted to learn more about the pharmacy and expand my knowledge so I can better understand the medicine that patients were prescribed. I needed to know this information to pass the PTCE and to improve my work performance."

She explained that by being in the apprentice program, she achieved passing the PTCE. The PTCE is a required certification after two years of pharmacy work. Individuals can take the PTCE or NHA; both are nationally recognized exams. Malinda is very proud of this achievement as she is now a Tech II and IV trained. She can move on to Tech III and IV positions within the pharmacy.

Cooks shared that the most surprising thing was learning all the necessary tools within one semester. So much knowledge had to be learned, like the 200 drugs, laws, etc. She was amazed at how the program was structured and how it covered every area required to be taught in such a short period. She was also amazed at how many resources were available to the students for additional help.

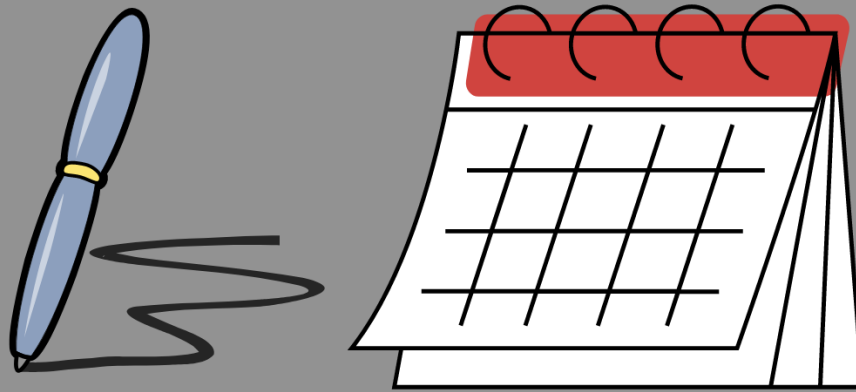
Malinda said, "There were a few challenges, like studying while working and taking care of kids. Sometimes, it was hard to get to class because I had to get my kids to school on time. I also had to travel from Lebanon to Alton for clinicals. I had a few childcare issues when my kids were sick, but I still needed to go to school. The instructors worked to accommodate me so I wouldn't miss anything."

Amanda Santini, Pharmacy Supervisor, said, “Since Malinda has started and completed the apprenticeship program, she has gained not only additional pharmacy knowledge but also a lot of confidence in critical pharmacy tasks.”

“I would advise someone looking to take an apprenticeship as a career pathway to stay focused and never stop asking questions about things you don’t know. Whether the career is in retail or a hospital, the need for pharmacy techs is in high demand. Making this decision, you are guaranteed to have a brighter future,” said Cooks.

Check out more stories like Malinda's at apprenticeshipillinois.com

Apprenticeship Illinois Calendar



**Add your apprenticeship events to the
Apprenticeship Illinois official calendar.**

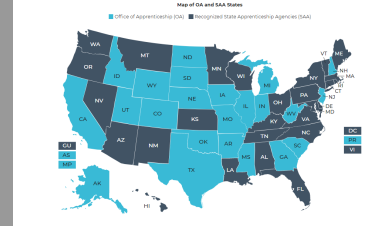


The Apprenticeship Illinois Calendar is a valuable tool for anyone involved in apprenticeship. See what events are upcoming or add your own to the calendar. To add your own events, click [here!](#)

USDOL-Illinois Office of Apprenticeship

Did you know that apprenticeships in Illinois are registered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Illinois Office of Apprenticeship?

Illinois is one of twenty-five Office of Apprenticeship (OA) States in which all apprenticeship program registration and oversight is done by federal U.S. Department of Labor staff through state field offices. Find your regional OA Illinois Apprenticeship Training Representative (ATR) [click here](#).



More information and sources for this information can be found by clicking the map. All information used was provided by apprenticeship.gov.

What is the IWIB Apprenticeship Illinois Committee?

The Apprenticeship Illinois Committee is one of 4 content-focused committees of the [Illinois Workforce Innovation Board or IWIB](#) and provides leadership on:

1. Expanding apprenticeships geographically and to new industries.
2. Increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in apprenticeships.
3. Formalizing apprenticeship coordination across partnering state agencies.
4. Growing statewide capacity to provide apprenticeship opportunities to job seekers and businesses.

The committee has 3 workgroups tasked with different aspects of expanding apprenticeship: the marketing workgroup, the pre-apprenticeship workgroup, and the youth apprenticeship workgroup. See below for a schedule of their upcoming meetings!

Apprenticeship Illinois Committee 2023 Schedule

Quarterly Committee Meetings

- TBD

Marketing Work Group

- August 3rd, 2023 2:00-3:00pm
- September 7th, 2023 2:00-3:00pm
- October 5th, 2023 2:00-3:00pm

Pre-Apprenticeship Work Group

- TBD

Youth Apprenticeship Work Group

The Youth Apprenticeship Work Group is currently in recess. When they resume sessions, you can find the updated meeting dates and times here!

Details of the quarterly meetings and workgroup meetings, such as date, time, locations, agendas, and materials are posted in the [IWIB calendar](#).

National Apprenticeship Resources

Resources for Apprenticeship from Maher/AIR:

- [State Apprenticeship Grantee Resource Guide](#) covers apprenticeship basics, state apprenticeship grant management, apprenticeship expansion strategy, and industry and occupation-specific information.

- [Apprenticeship Expansion Acceleration Strategies Resources](#)
- [Program Registration Acceleration Tool](#)
- [Apprenticeship Expansion Self-Assessment.](#)

Resources for Apprenticeship from Workforce GPS

- [Aligning the Registered Apprenticeship and Workforce Development Systems: A Resource](#)
- [Registered Apprenticeship 101 Bootcamp: RAP and the Public Workforce System](#)
- [Promising Practices in Apprenticeship Expansion](#)
- [Elements of Apprenticeship Expansion](#)

