



2025 Apprenticeship Bootcamp – Agenda FROM OUTREACH TO IMPACT

(last updated 9-16-25)

Day One, October 8 – Building Strong Foundations		
Time	Session Title	Speaker(s)
9:00am-10:00am	Coffee/Networking	
9:00am-10:00am	Pre-Conference: Apprenticeship 101	Nate Carlson
10:00-10:15	Welcome	TBD
10:15am-11:00am	Legislation & Policy Updates / Q&A RAP Funding Opportunities: WIOA, Perkins, Pell – DCEO & ICCB	Whitney Thompson ICCB & Julio Rodriguez DCEO
11:00am-12:00pm	Case Studies and Strategies for Successful Employer Engagement	John Hall LWIA 10, Emily Perks LWIA 25
12:00pm-12:30pm	Networking Lunch	
12:30pm-1:00pm	Plenary Session: Apprenticeship Tax Credit (Lunch)	Sergio Talavera/DCEO
1:00pm-2:00pm	Rotating Table Discussions	
2:00pm-2:30pm	Town Hall Discussion of Table Topics	Nate and Jen
2:30pm-2:45pm	PM Break	
2:45pm-4:45pm	Training Session – Scaling Employer Engagement for Registered Apprenticeship Success	Angela Baker – Safal Partners
4:45pm-5:00pm	Day One Close	

Day Two, October 9 – Developing Expertise		
Time	Session Title	Speaker(s)
8:30am-9:00am	Coffee/Networking	
9:00am-9:15am	Day Two Welcome from DCEO	
9:15am-10:15am	State of Registered Apprenticeships in Illinois & Other Data	Brian Richard, Jennifer Foil, Ivy Hood
10:15am-10:30am	AM Break	
10:30am-11:30am	Advanced Pathways in Registered Apprenticeship	Nate
11:30am-12:15pm	Networking Lunch	
12:15pm-1:00pm	Implementing Train-the-Trainer Services for RAPs	Bonnie Moore Lake Land College
1:00pm-1:15pm	PM Break	
1:15pm-3:15pm	Training Session - How to Turn Big Ideas Into Action: Business Strategies and Operating a True Demand- Driven System—Made Practical	Aaron Leson – TAD Grants



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3:30pm-4:00pm	RAP Trivia w/ Prizes	Nate
4:00pm-4:15pm	Bootcamp Close	

Guest Trainer Bios

Angela Baker has over 17 years of experience as a workforce development and registered apprenticeship subject matter expert (SME). She successfully sponsors registered apprenticeship programs in St. Louis, MO and also works as an Apprenticeship SME for a national industry intermediary, Safal Partners. Angela leads the employer engagement and outreach efforts under Safal Partners' Department of Labor contract to develop and scale IT/cyber registered apprenticeship programs in the U.S. Angela has a proven track record of designing impactful programs and creating effective employer engagement strategies. She has presented at numerous workforce development events, sharing insights on building sustainable registered apprenticeship program models.

Aaron Leson, Director of Training and Development at TAD Grants, is a nationally recognized expert in workforce and career development. With a focus on authentic communication and relationship-building, Aaron has trained thousands of professionals across the country to design systems that empower job seekers and meet employer demand. His work bridges policy and practice, helping organizations adapt to evolving legislation while staying rooted in community impact.