

# City of Champaign, Illinois

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** National Apprenticeship Week is a national recognition of the important role apprenticeship plays in preparing individuals for high-quality careers and helping employers build a skilled workforce; and
- WHEREAS,** Apprenticeship is an effective workforce strategy that combines paid on-the-job learning with related instruction, allowing participants to earn while they learn and develop skills aligned with employer needs; and
- WHEREAS,** Apprenticeship helps employers strengthen talent pipelines, improve retention, address workforce shortages, and invest in the long-term success of their workforce; and
- WHEREAS,** Apprenticeship creates meaningful opportunities for students, jobseekers, and workers to access career pathways that lead to economic mobility and long-term advancement; and
- WHEREAS,** The institution of registered apprenticeship has proven to be an effective method for the transfer of knowledge and skill from one generation to the next, and registered and graduate apprentices demonstrate the perseverance, technical aptitude, and teamwork required in the workplace; and
- WHEREAS,** Locally, apprentices are trained over a period of three to five years with experienced journeypersons, and each trade invests thousands of dollars per apprentice as they earn a wage while learning tuition-free; and
- WHEREAS,** The East Central Illinois Local Workforce Board works with employers, education partners, and community stakeholders to strengthen workforce development efforts, expand apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities, and support alignment between training and regional industry needs; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Champaign recognizes the value of apprenticeship and work-based learning in supporting local employers, strengthening the regional workforce, and contributing to the economic vitality of the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Deborah Frank Feinen, Mayor of the City of Champaign, Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 26—May 2, 2026, as

### ***National Apprenticeship Week***

In the City of Champaign, Illinois

I encourage all residents, employers, educators, workforce partners, and community stakeholders to recognize and celebrate the important role of apprenticeship in our community.

**In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal Of the City of Champaign to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2026.**



Deborah Frank Feinen, MAYOR