

## SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE NAW PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of raising awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeship plays as a proven and industry-driven training model and 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; and

WHEREAS, Southwestern Illinois College recognizes the urgent need to prepare our students to address 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; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering career seeking students affordable pathways to high-paying, good, quality jobs; and

WHEREAS, Southwestern Illinois College 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 and tribal communities, justice-involved individuals and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to America's industries; and

WHEREAS, Southwestern Illinois College recognizes the pivotal role educators, school counselors, and educational institutions serve in not only bringing awareness of Registered Apprenticeship opportunities to students and parents, but also serving as training providers, sponsors, and intermediaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael Conley, Director of Workforce Development at Southwestern Illinois College, call upon educators and industry partners in southwestern Illinois to recognize the value of Registered Apprenticeship, and to promote industry awareness and expansion during the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Apprenticeship Week: November 17, 2024, through November 23, 2024.

IN SUPPORT,



Michael L. Conley, Director of Workforce Development

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Conley', written over a horizontal line.