

Statement on National Apprenticeship Week:

National Apprenticeship Week will be celebrated with events and recognitions across the country the week of November 14 through 18, 2022. Here in Illinois, virtual and in-person events will be staged north and south, east and west, to raise awareness of this innovative, time-tested workforce development strategy.

A workforce system that dates back to the Middle Ages is as relevant today as it was then, based on proven principles like mentoring, craftsmanship, and applied learning. The Apprenticeship Illinois committee seeks to promote these principles and this enduring talent pipeline development method as an effective solution for many of the challenges that face today's employers, and society. Simply put, apprenticeship provides equitable career opportunities for underserved populations, helps employers across all occupational sectors recruit and retain new workers and upskill current workers, ensures a quality standard of training business and industry can rely on, and puts more people to work.

There are more than 16,000 apprentices enrolled in over 500 registered apprenticeship programs in Illinois, including nearly 4,000 new apprentices and 22 new programs this year alone. On behalf of the Apprenticeship Illinois committee, I encourage businesses and job-seekers to explore the lasting and multi-directional value of apprenticeship.

Prepare. Train. Retain.

Mike Conley, Chair

Apprenticeship Illinois Committee