

## **BUILDING AN ILLINOIS APPRENTICE NETWORK**

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Office of Employment and Training is collaborating with Aon and the Chicago Apprentice Network (CAN) to support regional apprenticeship partnerships throughout the state, forming an Illinois Apprentice Network. Teaming up with Aon and the Network, DCEO/OET will work with regional partners throughout the state to support the employer led approach.

- **June 4, 2019 2:00 – 3:30 pm: Kickoff Meeting with Navigators, Intermediaries, Apprenticeship Training Providers, Educators, Associations/Coalitions, Local Workforce Innovation Areas, and Other Workforce Professionals**
  - Interested parties will participate in this Kickoff Meeting via webinar
  - Learn how Aon started the Chicago Apprentice Network and how they are business champions to other employers in Illinois
  - Click [here](#) to sign up for the kickoff webinar
- **May – December 2019 - Conduct webinars to introduce and educate workforce development and education professionals on how to support employers and apprentices to successfully expand apprenticeship**
  - Content will be based on concepts from the CAN model and the US Chamber of Commerce's Talent Pipeline Management model.
- **July 2019 – Conduct In-Person, Regional Discussions with Employers**
  - Although the workshops will be held regionally, anyone throughout the state are invited to attend.
  - Tentatively, the workshops are scheduled to be held in Lake County, DuPage County, and Peoria County.
- **2019 -2020 – Launch/support Regional Apprenticeship Partnerships in local areas to include employers, training providers, educators, workforce professionals, LWIAs, unions, and supportive service providers.**

***Below are possible ways to participate:***

  - Established apprenticeship employers may serve as champions to other employers for reframing their hiring practices and using apprenticeship as a tool to hire underserved populations.
  - Established educators and training providers may develop and/or share frameworks, templates, and tools for other community colleges or training providers within the state.
  - Local workforce areas may leverage relationships with local employers and experience with job seekers to become apprenticeship navigators, helping both employers and potential apprentices navigate the system. They also provide support for eligibility determination, testing, case management, etc.
  - Unions, associations, or chambers of commerce have established employer members and understand the needs of those employers.
  - Service providers may provide services to apprentices to ensure retention and full participation in a variety of ways.