



## **Illinois Workforce Innovation Board**

**Bruce Rauner, Governor**

**John Rico, Co-Chair**

**Sean McCarthy, Co-Chair**

### **Action Item on the Apprenticeship Standing Committee June 16, 2016**

#### **Background Information:**

Apprenticeships are prominently featured in Illinois' WIOA Unified State Plan as a major strategy for providing career pathways for economic advancement. In the spring of 2016, the Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB), Executive Committee established the Illinois Apprenticeship Work Group, which includes leaders representing all key state apprenticeship stakeholders: business and industry, training providers, local workforce innovation boards, labor, philanthropies, community colleges, vocational rehabilitation services, and employment exchange services. IWIB Member Alicia Martin was selected to Chair the efforts of the Work Group and will Chair the Standing Committee, with Board approval.

The Work Group has met once in May and assigned two ad hoc groups to look into Apprenticeship Definitions and "Quick Win" Criteria. There are additional meetings schedule in June and July.

The purpose of the Work Group is to recommend a plan to the IWIB to establish a comprehensive and integrated apprenticeship system in Illinois, oversee its implementation and performance, and recommend improvements.

The Work Group's focus is on designing a comprehensive system of apprenticeship (traditional and non-traditional) that meets the needs of employers for workers with certified skills, competencies, and credentials while providing individuals with access to good jobs that offer career growth potential. Strategies to be considered include, but are not limited to:

- aligning apprenticeship supply and demand,
- organizing and engaging employers and industry partners,
- fostering apprenticeship program innovation and expansion,
- expanding access to under-represented populations, including women, minorities, and people with disabilities,
- promotion and branding, and
- other issues and opportunities to be identified by the work group

Through the Illinois Department of Commerce, and with the input and guidance of the Illinois Apprenticeship Work Group, the State of Illinois applied for and received a federal ApprenticeshipUSA State Accelerator Grant in the amount of \$200,000. With the support of DOL Accelerator Grant funds, the Illinois Apprenticeship Standing Committee will undertake a 24-month planning process that will enable them to leverage, connect, expand, and diversify Registered Apprenticeship opportunities in Illinois.

**Action Required**

Due to the strategic importance of apprenticeships, to the Illinois WIOA Unified State Plan, the detailed two-year planning process to which this work group has committed, and the need to monitor and assess the performance of the new apprenticeship system, it is recommended that this work group become a Standing Committee of the IWIB.