## COLES COUNTY BOARD

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Darrell Cox Chairman Nancy Purdy Vice Chairman

## THE COUNTY OF COLES NAW PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is celebrating its 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of raising awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeships provide in creating opportunities by allowing apprentices to earn while they learn and preparing a pathway to good, quality jobs and well-paying careers in Coles County and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering career seekers affordable paths to secure high-paying jobs, and

WHEREAS, Coles County 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 communities, justice-involved individuals and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to America's industries; and

WHEREAS, Coles County recognizes that Registered Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model, is a key strategy to improving job quality, and creating access to good-paying, family-sustaining jobs for all, starting with youth and young adults, while addressing 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nancy Purdy, Vice Chairperson of Coles County, do hereby declare November 13, 2023, through November 19, 2023, as National Apprenticeship Week in the County of Coles.

Darrell, Cox, Chairperson

Nancy Purdy, Vice Chair