



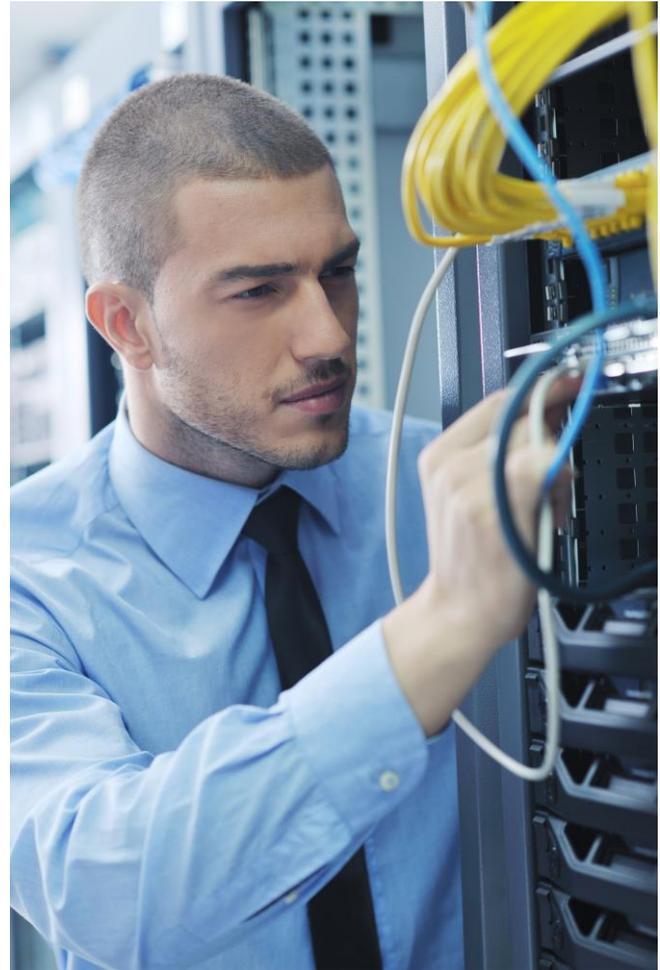
## WHAT IS NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK?

The ApprenticeshipUSA initiative centers on a call to action to increase the use of Registered Apprenticeship to upskill our nation's workers, and expand the talent pipeline available to U.S. industries. In support of this effort and the long-term vision it represents, President Barack Obama has proclaimed the week of November 2 - 6 as the First Annual National Apprenticeship Week.

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) will offer employers, industry associations, labor, education, and other critical partners the opportunity to express their support of Apprenticeship. NAW will also offer Apprenticeship LEADERS a chance to showcase their programs, facilities and apprentices; highlighting the benefits of the Apprenticeship model in preparing a highly skilled workforce to meet the talent demands of employers in all industries.

Participation in NAW activities will highlight the collective effort among states, industries, employers, labor-unions, educators, community-based organizations and local, state and federal government to ensure the U.S. will continue to lead the world in developing an innovative and highly skilled workforce through apprenticeship. NAW will consist of a multitude of events and activities nationwide to promote the expansion of the "earn and learn" model, including:

- Apprenticeship Program Open Houses
- Apprenticeship Signing Days
- Industry and Employer Apprenticeship Commitment Announcements
- Skills Competitions
- Blogs and Social Media Activities
- Other Outreach & Promotional Activities



To further highlight this historic proclamation, the Department of Labor has launched a [National Apprenticeship Week](#) page online to recommend ideas and activities that support NAW; complete with a suite of online resources to aid apprenticeship stakeholders in celebrating NAW and hosting their own apprenticeship events.

In support of the ApprenticeshipUSA effort and NAW, Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez is also calling on Leaders of Excellence in Apprenticeship Development, Education, and Research ([LEADERS](#)) to proclaim their continued commitment and leadership to the successful promotion of the ApprenticeshipUSA initiative.

## Why is Apprenticeship Important to the President and the Nation?

The President's lifting up of apprenticeship in the 2014 State of the Union address launched a national effort to expand apprenticeships in the U.S. because the results are clear: Apprenticeship works! Apprenticeship leads to a highly skilled workforce for industries and employers! And...leads to higher wages and long-term successful careers for U.S. workers!

We've seen a historic increase in the number of apprenticeships; from 375,000 in 2013 to 430,000 today. But we still have much more to accomplish. Consider that per capita the U.S. still lags behind other countries like Germany, Switzerland, and the UK in terms of industries' utilization of the apprenticeship training model. Also, consider that it is anticipated that nearly 30% of all jobs by 2020 will require a post-secondary degree or credential. Experts also project a shortfall of nearly 3 million Americans lacking the post-secondary education required to fill these jobs. Now consider these Apprenticeship facts:

- Apprentices on average earn more than \$50,000 upon program completion, and have been shown to increase their compensation by approximately \$300,000 over their lifetime.
- 90% of apprenticeship completers enter and sustain employment.
- Studies show that apprenticeships provide a good return on investment for workers and employers. Canadian studies estimate a return on investment of \$1.47 for every \$1 invested in Apprenticeship.
- Apprenticeship is also good for the nation. For every \$1 invested in Apprenticeship, the public returns approximately \$28 in benefits.



With a renewed national focus on expanding apprenticeships, the National Registered Apprenticeship System is at-the-ready to meet our nation's talent needs.

## How Can You Get Involved?

Industry associations, employers, labor unions, educators, and other stakeholders have joined the ApprenticeshipUSA initiative by registering as Apprenticeship **LEADERS** and committing to participating in NAW activities to continue their dedication to expanding the Apprenticeship model. The future of Apprenticeship mirrors the burgeoning opportunity our industries and employers have to build a pipeline of skilled workers that ensure America remains a global leader in innovation, production and the ability to develop the best trained, most highly skilled workforce in the world!

To learn more and join the ApprenticeshipUSA initiative by becoming an ApprenticeshipUSA LEADER, please visit:

<http://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/leaders.htm>

For more information on National Apprenticeship Week, please visit:

[www.doleta.gov/oa/naw/](http://www.doleta.gov/oa/naw/)

Join today and reap the benefits of the Apprenticeship training model.