OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 2-6, 2015

National Apprenticeship Week

For more than 75 years, formal state-registered apprenticeship training programs have been an integral part of California's efforts to promote a highly trained workforce. The state's apprenticeship system brings together industry, labor, education and government to increase career opportunities for Californians while meeting employers' needs for skilled workers.

Apprenticeship programs provide on-the-job training and technical instruction in which the apprentice learns by doing and earns while learning. This approach to training for skilled occupations was formalized by the state in 1939 with the enactment of the Shelley-Maloney Apprentice Labor Standards Act, which established standards for apprenticeship training programs. Today, 62,000 apprentices statewide are being trained in more than 800 occupations, making California's the nation's largest apprenticeship system.

Given the significance of apprenticeships to the state's workforce development system, it is essential that the apprenticeship model continue to adapt along with changes in our economy. The budget I signed in June directs funding to expand existing apprenticeship programs and to create new programs in non-traditional fields and emerging industries with unmet labor demands.

President Barack Obama has proclaimed November 2-6, 2015 as "National Apprenticeship Week" to acknowledge the great contributions of formal registered apprenticeship to the nation's ability to build a strong middle class by increasing the number of skilled workers.

I urge all Californians to recognize the value of registered apprenticeship to the economic well-being of our state, its workers and its employers. I also encourage all California employers to explore the potential of apprenticeship as a means to grow their businesses, meet their needs for skilled personnel and offer opportunities for their employees to advance in their careers.

Sincerely,

Jerry Brown

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