



**RON DeSANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

**APPRENTICESHIP AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION WEEK IN FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, as Governor, I am committed to making Florida number one in workforce education by 2030 to ensure Florida's industry-driven workforce, education, and training programs meet the needs of a globally competitive economy; and

WHEREAS, registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs are a time-tested workforce training model, and apprentices and preapprentices receive unparalleled on-the-job training, insightful mentorship, and the attainment of valuable and nationally recognized credentials necessary for a family-sustaining career; and

WHEREAS, nearly 94 percent of apprentices who complete an apprenticeship program retain employment with their registered apprenticeship sponsor, and earn an average exit wage of \$50,000 a year; and

WHEREAS, business and industry leaders sponsoring a registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship program cultivate their workforce with customizable training, develop direct talent-to-employment pipelines, and improve productivity; and

WHEREAS, Florida has shown its support for workforce education through outreach campaigns such as Apprentice Florida, Get There Florida, and the Future of Work Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida has shown its commitment to workforce training through the passage and implementation of the 2021 REACH Act, which addresses the evolving needs of Florida's workforce by increasing the level of collaboration and cooperation among the state's business and education communities; and

WHEREAS, Apprentice Florida is an initiative started in 2019 to expand apprenticeship opportunities throughout the state, led by a state leadership team that consists of CareerSource Florida, the Florida Department of Education, and the Department of Economic Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, I have invested in expanding registered apprenticeships and preapprenticeship programs with over \$40 million dedicated to the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant, with \$6.4 million set aside for apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs in Florida's Space Coast; and

WHEREAS, this year we awarded \$9 million in continued investments to expand registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs at 11 colleges across Florida through the Expansion of Registered Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship (ERAP) Grant; and

WHEREAS, Florida's registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs continue to grow with 328 registered programs, over 17,000 registered apprentices and preapprentices, and nearly 3,600 participating employers; and

WHEREAS, Florida's workforce development and education partners, including the Department of Education, the Department of Economic Opportunity and CareerSource Florida are focused on creating new apprenticeship opportunities in growing industries including manufacturing, construction, education, healthcare, information technology, hospitality, and trade and logistics; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Education's apprenticeship regions are supported by Apprenticeship Training Representatives and outreach specialists who collaborate with the Department of Economic Opportunity and CareerSource Florida's 24 local workforce development boards, building an integrated apprenticeship network to support program expansion; and

WHEREAS, the Career Source Florida Board of Directors has allocated \$3.5 million since 2018 to support the expansion of registered apprenticeships, including \$750,000 to establish Apprentice Navigator positions at local workforce development boards statewide to work directly with Apprenticeship Training Representatives and employers to create apprenticeship opportunities in the counties they serve; and

WHEREAS, Apprenticeship Navigators receive ongoing training from CareerSource Florida and the Department of Education's Office of Apprenticeship on the benefits to businesses, both large and small and in all industries, of using a registered apprenticeship model to develop, train and retain their workforce; and

WHEREAS, continued growth of registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs ensures Floridians are prepared for the jobs of the future high-wage employment options based in Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 14-20, 2022, as *Apprenticeship Awareness and Appreciation Week in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Governor

THE CAPITOL

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