

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by Governor Bill Walker

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship training programs have an illustrious history in Alaska, dating back to the national Fitzgerald Act of 1937 that created America's apprenticeship training system; and

WHEREAS, apprenticeship is a unique, flexible training system that combines job-related technical instruction with structured, paid on-the-job learning experiences and Registered Apprenticeship programs directly contribute to higher rates of Alaska Hire and lower rates of unemployment by increasing the supply of trained workers; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship prepares Alaska's workers to compete in a 21st Century economy through training that keeps pace with advancing technologies and work-based innovations; and

WHEREAS, more than 800 Alaskan employers hire Registered Apprentices today and offer training in Alaska for thousands of apprentices in over 100 technical occupations including construction, transportation, communications, seafood processing, health care, maritime, oil, gas, and mining occupations; and

WHEREAS, a diverse group of Alaska employers have started innovative new apprenticeship programs over the last year, ranging from Behavioral Health Aide to Able Body Seaman; and

WHEREAS, apprentice training provides an on-ramp for students and adults to high-skilled, high-paying jobs where they can earn good wages and obtain occupational licenses and college degrees while working. Alaskans who complete Registered Apprenticeship program graduates earn, on average, more than \$80,000 annually, 42 percent higher than the statewide average wage; and

WHEREAS, expansion of Registered Apprenticeship in health care and other high-growth industries is a central element of the State's efforts to sustain high wages and economic security for working families.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim November 14-20, 2016 as:

Alaska Apprenticeship Week

in Alaska, and thank employers, labor unions, community partners, and the federal government for their collective work to help develop Alaska's workforce using Registered Apprenticeships.

Dated: October 6, 2016



Bill Walker
Bill Walker, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.