

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-193

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 5, 2019

To declare the week of November 11 through November 17, 2019, as Apprenticeship Week in the District of Columbia, in celebration of the benefits of apprenticeships in preparing a highly-skilled workforce to meet the talent needs of employers across diverse industries.

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is a national celebration commissioned by the U.S. Department of Labor during the week of November 11 through November 17, 2019;

WHEREAS, the national registered apprenticeship system enables residents to earn a paycheck while they learn workplace skills, reducing their need to take on student debt and helping employers build a talented workforce by ensuring high-quality, on-the-job training;

WHEREAS, there are over 585,000 apprentices nationwide who are developing skills in nearly 1,400 occupations and are on the path toward long-term, living wage employment;

WHEREAS, workers who complete an apprenticeship program have earned up to \$300,000 more in wages over the span of their career than non-apprenticeship participants;

WHEREAS, apprenticeship programs have been shown to be highly cost-effective methods of developing workplace skills with potential to also reduce youth unemployment, raise wages for working adults, ease transitions after graduation from school to the workforce, and use limited federal resources more effectively;

WHEREAS, apprenticeship programs have also been shown to produce high returns for employers through benefits that include highly skilled employees, reduced turnover costs, lower investment in recruitment, higher productivity, and a more diverse workforce;

WHEREAS, the vast majority of current apprentices are men, there is a need to ensure that apprenticeship opportunities are also available and accessible to women.

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WHEREAS, the vast majority of registered apprenticeship programs in the District are in the construction trades, and there is a need to expand apprenticeships into other high-demand industries in the District;

WHEREAS, the Pathways to District Government Careers Act of 2018, funded in Fiscal Year 2020, establishes a public-sector apprenticeship initiative that requires District government to create apprenticeship programs in 5 high-demand occupations, including one in healthcare and one in information technology, to ensure District government leads by example and provides the benefits of apprenticeships to District agencies, employees, and residents;

WHEREAS, by contacting the D.C. Department of Employment Services, District residents can learn how apprenticeships provide an avenue toward long-term, living wage careers and District businesses can learn how apprenticeships can address long-term hiring needs;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Apprenticeship Week Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes the continued impact of apprenticeship programs on improving long-term employment outcomes and declares the week of November 11 through November 17, 2019, as Apprenticeship Week in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.