

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Mass Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy

☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Development Board Chairs
Workforce Development Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: November 8, 2016

Subject: **National Apprenticeship Week**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of activities across Massachusetts in support of National Apprenticeship Week 2016.

Background: President Barack Obama proclaimed the week of November 2, 2015 as the first annual National Apprenticeship Week. Across the nation through over 300 events in 47 states, communities large and small, recognized the important role Apprenticeship plays in offering employers an opportunity to develop a highly skilled workforce to help grow their business and career seekers the chance to earn a salary while learning the skills necessary to succeed.

Events and activities will take place across Massachusetts in participation of the second annual [National Apprenticeship Week](#) during the week of November 14 – 20, 2016.

Since October 2015, Massachusetts has been awarded \$4.7M in three separate grants to support the engagement of employers and other partners to expand apprenticeship into new sectors and to underserved populations. The average starting salary for an apprentice graduate is more than \$50,000 a year, and over the course of their careers apprentices earn \$300,000 more, on average, in wages and benefits than their peers who did not participate in a registered apprentice

program, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Massachusetts is invested in apprenticeship and looks to expansion of apprenticeship as a workforce development solution to challenges including chronic unemployment.

Some Massachusetts Activities in Support of National Apprenticeship Week

- Development of a state proclamation in support of NAW
- Press releases thanking MAI and Expansion Grant employers for their commitments to promoting and expanding apprenticeship
- New England Laborers' Training Trust Fund Apprenticeship Program will host an open house to showcase their program and facility
- Policy Group on Tradeswomen's Issues will celebrate their first annual "Crushing Barriers for Women in Apprenticeship Awards"

Action

Requested: Please share this information with staff and partners as appropriate. Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners are encouraged to participate in National Apprenticeship Week. For event/activity ideas: <https://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/NAW/event-kit.htm>