

STATE OF MICHIGAN



CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN,  
I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

November 8 – November 14, 2020

as

**APPRENTICESHIP WEEK**

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship (RA) is an elite workforce training model that provides paid, relevant work experience, related classroom instruction, and a United States Department of Labor (USDOL) national credential that allows workers to earn a living while acquiring the skills employers demand in a variety of occupations; and,

WHEREAS, RAs share our statewide goal of increasing postsecondary credential attainment to 60% by 2030 to help close Michigan's widening skills gap; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan is among the national leaders in RAs, and the state's apprenticeship network continues to work to grow the number of opportunities to ensure more students and jobseekers gain in-demand skills without extensive tuition debt, while employers get the talent they need to grow and thrive; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan is one of the leading states across the U.S., having more than 1,096 registered apprenticeship programs and over 21,075 active apprentices; and,

WHEREAS, organized labor has a long and strong history of promoting, providing, and training the vast majority of apprentices in Michigan, and we are proud that this continues to bring good skills and high paying careers with retirement and other benefits while supporting our efforts to reach the 60 by 30 goal; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) champions efforts designed to provide a proven system of public-private partners to support and operate successful RA programs; and,

WHEREAS, the USDOL awarded the State Apprenticeship Expansion grant awards to Michigan, including over \$14 million in funding to expand RA by over 6,000 new apprentices, including minorities, youth, individuals with disabilities, and veterans; and,

WHEREAS, LEO is working across the department to expand RA programs for youth with disabilities by conducting outreach, engaging employers, and developing RA opportunities for careers in information technology, health care, and manufacturing; and,

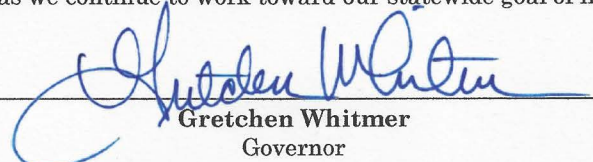
WHEREAS, LEO, in partnership with the USDOL Office of Apprenticeship, has contributed to apprenticeship expansion through support of sector partnerships, employer incentives, and the establishment of the Apprenticeship Success Coordinator function within the Michigan Works! System, which has resulted in approximately 2,000 new apprentices since 2017; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan has enacted bipartisan legislation to allow more veterans to use G.I. Bill benefits towards securing RA opportunities, and USDOL, LEO, the Michigan Department of Military Affairs, and other veterans' apprenticeship stakeholders work together to expand veteran RA opportunities and network with relevant apprenticeship partners; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan's efforts to date have provided a substantial increase in RA diversity, quality, innovation, and expansion, resulting in career pathway opportunities for underrepresented populations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim November 8-14, 2020, as Apprenticeship Week in Michigan, as we continue to work toward our statewide goal of increasing postsecondary credential attainment to 60 percent by 2030.



  
Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor

