



APPRENTICESHIP WORKS

ISSUE NO. 49 | FALL 2024

SHARE THE BENEFITS OF APPRENTICESHIP

Know someone interested in becoming an apprentice? Or an employer who wants to start an apprenticeship program? Information and resources are available at apprenticeshipmn.com.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK BEGINS NOV. 18

National Apprenticeship Week in Minnesota – Nov. 18 to 22, 2024 – is a nationwide celebration of apprenticeship programs and the apprentices and community partners that make them great.

Apprenticeship Minnesota, its community partners and program sponsors are hosting several events including open houses, a celebration for women in the construction trades, an apprentice panel discussion and celebrating the innovative mental health supports provided by program sponsors.

[Learn more about National Apprenticeship Week.](#)

FEATURED STORIES



2 SAVE-THE-DATE FOR APPRENTICESHIP SUMMITS



4 MORTON EMBARKS ON NEW CAREER WITH MEAT-CUTTER APPRENTICESHIP

m APPRENTICESHIP MINNESOTA



NOV 18-24

Save-the-date for Apprenticeship Summits

APPRENTICESHIP DEVELOPMENT SUMMITS

Apprenticeship Minnesota is hosting two Apprenticeship Development Summits to promote the creation of registered apprenticeship programs in greater Minnesota.

Local workforce board members, workforce development staff, interested employers and others who would like to learn about the benefits of registered apprenticeship program are welcome to attend. Lunch and a light breakfast will be provided.

Each regional summit will be hosted by current registered apprenticeship programs and include:

- tours of local programs,
- “Registered Apprenticeship 101” information session,
- networking opportunities, and
- question-and-answer session with apprenticeship development specialists.

Contact kelly.henriksen@state.mn.us with questions or if you would like to be notified as registration becomes available.

Save the date:

The **Southeast Minnesota Regional Summit** is at the Southeast Minnesota Plumbers and Steamfitters Training Center in Rochester on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The **Northern Minnesota Regional Summit** is at Hibbing Public Utilities in Hibbing on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM SUMMIT

Apprenticeship Minnesota is hosting a program summit for all registered apprenticeship programs. The event will focus on answering questions and providing resources to current program sponsors through several workshops and speakers.

Topics at the Apprenticeship Program Summit will include:

- grant writing,
- strategies for diversity equity and inclusion,
- data management best practices, and
- time for networking and the ability for programs to learn from each other.

SPONSORSHIPS

Contact kelly.henriksen@state.mn.us to learn about sponsorship opportunities for your organization.

Contact kelly.henriksen@state.mn.us with questions or if you would like to be notified as registration becomes available.

Save the date:

The **Apprenticeship Program Summit** is Wednesday, March 5, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Minneapolis Plumbers Joint Journeymen and Apprentice Training Committee’s facility in Maple Grove.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RECENT GRANT AWARDEES

Recipients of a pair of grants to help grow apprenticeship opportunities in Minnesota were recently announced.

Recipients of recent **Labor Education Advancement Program Grants**, awarded in two rounds, include:

First round of funding:

- Building Strong Communities – St. Paul
- Friends of Career Solutions – St. Cloud
- Change, Inc. – St. Paul
- Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers – St. Paul
- Minnesota Community Health Workers Alliance – Bloomington
- North Branch Area Education Foundation – North Branch

Second round of funding:

- Southside Community Health Services, Inc. – Minneapolis
- Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation – Chaska

The **Clean Economy Occupations Grant** is now open. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all funds have been awarded

Current and recent grantees include:

- International Union of Elevator Constructors – Local 9
- Carpenters and Joiners Apprenticeship and Journeyman Training Trust Fund
- Minnesota Rural Water Association
- St. Paul Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee
- Minneapolis Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee

[View more information about grants available from DLI.](#)

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE BOARDS HOSTS ITS SUMMER CONFERENCE

Led by Nicole Blissenbach, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), Apprenticeship Minnesota staff members attended the Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) 2024 Summer Conference in Duluth.

Blissenbach joined a panel that discussed how Minnesota's participation in American initiatives will bring unprecedented investments to Minnesota and create jobs, as well as how state agencies are working together to make sure these projects are successful and help people find high-quality jobs in construction, manufacturing and clean energy.

Apprenticeship Minnesota works to grow its partnerships with MAWB and the workforce systems across the state in effort to provide Minnesota with a strong workforce.



From left, MAWB Executive Director Cate Duin; Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Matt Varilek; DLI Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach; MAWB Operations Chair Elena Foshay; and National Association of Workforce Boards President Brad Turner Little.

MORTON SEIZES CHANCE AT NEW APPRENTICESHIP

Corinne Morton has been a loyal employee working for the same grocer in St. Paul for 30 years.

During this time, she wanted to move up and become a meat cutter in the meat and deli department, but never had an accessible pathway to gain the necessary skills. That changed early in 2024 when the local United Food and Commercial Workers 1189 union launched a registered apprenticeship program to train meat cutters.

This two-year apprenticeship combines classes two nights a week at Saint Paul College with on-the-job learning. After apprentices master all the skills and competencies the job requires, they earn two nationally- and industry-recognized certifications: a meat cutter journeyworker certification and ServSafe (food safety and handling) certification.

For Morton and others interested in the food service industry, the apprenticeship provides a pathway to upward mobility and a solid income: Meat cutters start



Corinne Morton, meat-cutter apprentice.

out around \$30 an hour and, with experience, can earn \$70,000 to \$80,000 a year.

Morton is excited that this union-backed program is equipping her to reach her dream of becoming a meat cutter.

Just a few months into the program, not only is she learning new skills in the kitchen classroom, but she's also applying them at work, where she's cutting meat under the supervision of her mentor.

If you're dreaming of a better job, Morton recommends apprenticeship for the training and on-the-job experience it provides,

and encourages, "you can get there, with dedication, hard work and never losing sight of your passion." And for women considering entering a male-dominated profession like she has, she has just two words: "Girl power!"

[Learn more about meat-cutter program.](#)

APPRENTICESHIP MINNESOTA BY-THE-NUMBERS

Apprentices, as of Sept. 25, 2024	
Total	11,123
Women	917
People of Color	2,955
Veterans	612
Disability	175
Apprentices by age	
18-24 years old	48%
25-34 years old	34%
35 years old and over	18%

July	August	Sept.
New apprentices by month		
523	393	183
Completions by month		
141	122	88

Sponsors, as of Sept. 25, 2024	
Active sponsors	218
New sponsors	8
Participating employers	4,655

Apprentice participation by race/ethnic group	
American Indian/Alaska Native	3%
Asian	3%
Black/African American	7%
Hispanic	12%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<0.5%
Multiple race	2%
White	69%
Did not self-identify	16%

This newsletter was funded as part of a \$3.3 million grant through the U.S. Department of Labor to support the expansion of registered apprenticeship in Minnesota.

NEW REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

Congratulations to the new apprenticeship programs recently registered with Apprenticeship Minnesota, including Minnesota's first K-12 teacher apprenticeship:

- BrightWorks Education Service Cooperative – K-12 teacher
- Communications Workers of America Broadband JATC-Upper Midwest – telecommunications installers and repairers
- Essentia Health – surgical technologist
- Minneapolis Public Schools – K-12 teacher
- Minnesota Association of Plumbing Heating and Cooling Contractors – plumber
- North Branch Area Public Schools – K-12 teacher
- Northern Itasca Hospital District – surgical technologist
- Novel Energy Solutions LLC – electrician
- Quality of Life, Home Care Services, LLC – direct support specialist

Visit apprenticeship.mn.gov to learn more about starting a program at your business.

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES ENTERS ITS RECRUITING AND ENROLLMENT PERIOD

Building Strong Communities (BSC) – an apprenticeship preparatory program for the construction industry – is providing virtual program information during its recruitment and enrollment period to inform potential applicants about program components and expectations. These virtual information sessions are a required step in the enrollment process.

The next session is Saturday, Oct. 12, at 10 a.m. If you or someone you know is interested in the work-training program, [visit the Building Strong Communities website](#) for more information about session information and how to get involved.

BSC National Apprenticeship Week panels

To celebrate the placement and success of graduates in registered apprenticeship programs, BSC is hosting four panels featuring BSC graduates, now registered apprentices in the construction industry, during National Apprenticeship Week:

- **Monday, Nov. 18, 6 to 7:30 p.m.:** Panel will feature BSC graduates who are registered apprentices in the construction industry.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m.:** Panel will feature apprentices who are veterans and involved in the Helmets to Hardhats career placement program.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 20, 6 to 7:30 p.m.:** Panel will feature BSC graduates who are registered apprentices in the construction industry.
- **Saturday, Nov. 23, 10:30 a.m. to noon:** Panel will feature BSC graduates who are registered apprentices in the construction industry.

View more about [Building Strong Communities and their National Apprenticeship Week Graduate Panels](#).

CONSTRUCT TOMORROW EVENTS SCHEDULED

As schools around the state have welcomed students back to class, Construct Tomorrow begins another year of outreach to Minnesota high schools, giving students an opportunity to explore career opportunities in the construction and building trades. At Construct Tomorrow events, students can interact one-on-one with industry professionals and gain a hands-on introduction to the trades.

Construct Tomorrow event calendar:

- Oct. 15, 2024: Curl Mesabi Curling Club, Eveleth
- Oct. 29, 2024: Rochester Community Technical College, Rochester
- Nov. 12, 2024: Mankato Civic Center, Mankato
- Dec. 3, 2024: Heritage Center, Minneapolis
- Jan. 28, 2025: Grand Casino Hinckley, Hinckley



To learn more about Construct Tomorrow, and to register your school for an event, [visit Construct Tomorrow's website](#).

G.I. BILL BENEFITS CAN BE USED FOR APPRENTICESHIP

In addition to helping with costs related to attending college, G.I. Bill benefits can be used while training in a registered apprenticeship or other on-the-job training.

The G.I. Bill offers veterans up to \$10,000 to use while in school or training and businesses can receive up to \$2,000 as an incentive to hire veterans. Benefits can also be used for licensing and certification, including fees for required continuing education and others related to maintaining employment.



More information

dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/gi-bill-benefits-and-apprenticeship

Follow us on social media

Check us out at:

- twitter.com/apprenticemn
- facebook.com/ApprenticeMN
- youtube.com/user/mndli1
- linkedin.com/company/apprenticeshipmn
- instagram.com/apprenticeshipmn

