



# APPRENTICESHIP WORKS

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## 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](http://apprenticeshipmn.com).

## SPONSOR TRAINING AND INTRODUCTION TO APPRENTICESHIP SESSIONS

### RAPIDS training sessions

In June 2023, Apprenticeship Minnesota transitioned to RAPIDS, the database sponsors use to administer registered apprenticeship.



Over the next few months, additional RAPIDS training sessions are scheduled to highlight the use of the DocuSign feature and other topics including a roundtable discussion to review best practices and frequently asked questions.

### Registered Apprenticeship 101 sessions

Registered Apprenticeship 101 sessions are scheduled for Feb. 20 and April 23. Join us to learn the basics of registered apprenticeship and how to grow a pipeline of workers for your business.

Visit [dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/news-and-events](http://dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/news-and-events) for more information and to register.

## FEATURED STORIES



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## NEXT ROUND OF LEAP GRANTS TO OPEN IN FEBRUARY

The next round of Labor Education Advancement Program (LEAP) grant funding will open in early February 2024, with recipients beginning grant-funded work in July 2024.

The goal of the LEAP grant is to facilitate the participation or retention of people of color, Indigenous people and women in registered apprenticeship programs through various means including outreach, education, assessment, preparation, support services, instruction, training, placement and retention activities.

Total grant funding is \$1 million and the average grant size is estimated at \$100,000. Eligible applicants include community based organizations, non-profits and tribal governments.

### Questions?

Contact [lyla.brown@state.mn.us](mailto:lyla.brown@state.mn.us). View more information about grant opportunities at [dli.mn.gov/grants](https://dli.mn.gov/grants).

## LOCAL APPRENTICE WINS IDEAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to Jose Renteria, an apprentice at the Minneapolis Electrical JATC, who recently won the 2023 IDEAL National Championship in Tampa, Florida.

The IDEAL National Championship, established in 2016, is designed to celebrate and honor the electrical trade. The competition highlights the professional trades as a rewarding and in-demand career path.

Renteria competed against nine apprentices from across the country in a two-round competition that involved building a three-phase commercial service and wiring for a commercial storefront. He won \$40,000 in prize money and represented Minnesota's apprenticeship programs with his win.

View more images from the event at [www.idealind.com/us/en/nationals-home-page.html](https://www.idealind.com/us/en/nationals-home-page.html).



Apprentice Jose Renteria on stage after winning the 2023 IDEAL National Championship.

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO APPRENTICESHIP STATUTES

The Minnesota Apprenticeship Advisory Board met for a special meeting Dec. 13, 2023, to review proposed changes and accept public comment about Minnesota's apprenticeship statutes. View a draft of the proposed changes reviewed by the advisory board at [dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/apprenticeship-advisory-board](https://dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/apprenticeship-advisory-board).

Following the board meeting, the proposed changes were submitted to the governor's office for review. If approved, the proposed language will be heard during the 2024 legislative session and additional feedback will be provided through the committee hearing process.

# NEW OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP OUTREACH COMING SOON

A new, first-in-state Office of Apprenticeship Outreach was announced during National Apprenticeship Week on Nov. 14, 2023, to help individuals connect to apprenticeship opportunities where they can learn new skills and achieve a credential while earning a paycheck.

The venture was announced by the City of Minneapolis Employment and Training and the Minneapolis Workforce Development Board, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. The office will operate out of the North Minneapolis CareerForce as a community resource for individuals interested in exploring and connecting to apprenticeship opportunities.

During the event, a panel discussed the benefits of apprenticeship, including good wages, skill building, career advancement and work/life balance for apprentices. Employers also enjoy the benefit of building their own pipeline of skilled workers.

Apprenticeships are available in multiple, high-demand industries across the state. For more information, visit [careerforcemn.com/careerforce-blog/announcing-minneapolis-apprenticeship-outreach-office](https://careerforcemn.com/careerforce-blog/announcing-minneapolis-apprenticeship-outreach-office).



Partners in the new Office of Apprenticeship Outreach during an event on Nov. 14, 2023.



## EVENTS BRING STAFF THROUGHOUT MINNESOTA

Apprenticeship Minnesota staff members took part in many events throughout the state to promote outreach and education for registered apprenticeship. The map at left shows the locations staff visited during the past quarter.

If you're hosting an event and would like Apprenticeship Minnesota staff to attend, email [dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us).

# APPRENTICESHIP MINNESOTA WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Georgiana Amundson

## **Georgiana Amundson, MN-SAEF grant manager**

Amundson started at Apprenticeship Minnesota to manage the State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula grant (MN-SAEF) in September 2023. Previously, Amundson worked at Winona State University in the Grants and Sponsored Projects Office. She is originally from Romania, spent half of her life in Austria, and has been in the United States for almost 10 years.



Darcus Mitchell

## **Darcus Mitchell, senior field representative**

Mitchell reviews, engages and supports registered apprenticeship programs to ensure they follow state and federal requirements and deliver quality employment-based training to apprentice participants. Prior to Apprenticeship Minnesota, Mitchell worked at the Minnesota Department of Transportation in the Office of Civil Rights.



Lyla Brown

## **Lyla Brown, grants specialist coordinator**

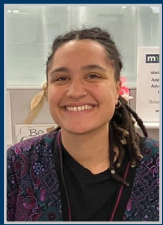
Brown manages grants including Labor Education Advancement Program, Helmets to Hardhats, Clean Energy Occupations and Virtual Academy.



Paul Nikstad

## **Paul Nikstad, senior field representative**

Nikstad develops registered apprenticeships in the construction and manufacturing sectors throughout the state. He has a background in vocational training and workforce development and previously worked with the Humbert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center in St. Paul.



Naomi Cowan

## **Naomi Cowan, MN-SAEF outreach and education coordinator**

Cowan's role is to create an outreach and education plan that spreads effective apprenticeship education to the entire state, specifically targeting underrepresented groups. Cowan has a background in education, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Programming, and has lived and worked in the Twin Cities her whole life.

## **Questions about registered apprenticeship?**

Contact us at [dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us) or 651-284-5090.

## EVENT EXPLORES EDUCATION APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeship Minnesota hosted a roundtable discussion at the Carpenters Training Institute in St. Paul on Nov. 3, 2023, that drew nearly 75 Minnesota educators, administrators, paraprofessionals, union leaders, state agency representatives and more, to discuss the development of a registered apprenticeship programs for teachers.

The goal of the event was to review the potential role of registered apprenticeships in education and allow participants to provide input about what apprenticeship programming could bring to workforce development within the field of education.



Apprenticeship Minnesota Field Representatives LaRohn Latimer and Leslie Philmon provide an overview of registered apprenticeship at a Nov. 3 event about exploring apprenticeships for teachers.

# STAFF TOUR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING CENTERS

During National Apprenticeship Week (Nov. 13 to 19, 2023), Apprenticeship Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs staff visited several apprenticeship training centers, including the Statewide Limited Energy JATC, Cement Masons, Plasters and Shophands Local 633 JATC and the Metro Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 JATC.

In December, the Carpenters Training Institute provided Apprenticeship Minnesota staff with tours of their Twin Cities campuses (Twin Cities Campus, LJ Shosten Campus and the Floor Covers Training Center). Thank you to all the staff at these training centers for providing tours.



Cement Masons Training Center



Statewide Limited Energy JATC



Cement Masons Training Center



Metro Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 JATC

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# SIGN UP TO ATTEND A CONSTRUCT TOMORROW EVENT

Construct Tomorrow is a partnership of union contractors and apprenticeship training centers in Minnesota created to give high school students in Minnesota hands-on exposure to registered apprenticeship opportunities in the construction trades. Events are conducted around the state each school year.

## 2024 event dates

- Jan. 17, Hinckley – Grand Casino Hinckley
- Feb. 14, Minneapolis – Earl Brown Heritage Center
- March 12 and 13, Duluth – Duluth Entertainment Convention Center



For more information and to register to attend an event, visit [www.constructtomorrow.org](http://www.constructtomorrow.org).

## 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](http://dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/gi-bill-benefits-and-apprenticeship)

## APPRENTICESHIP MINNESOTA BY-THE-NUMBERS

Apprentices, as of Dec. 31, 2023	
Total	11,031
Women	848
People of Color	2,574
Veterans	671
Disability	137
Apprentices by age	
18-24 years old	46%
25-34 years old	35%
35 years old and over	19%

Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
New apprentices by month		
153	186	102
Completions by month		
131	90	85

Sponsors, as of Dec. 31, 2023	
Active sponsors	233
New sponsors	2
Participating employers	4,655

Apprentice participation by race/ethnic group	
American Indian/Alaska Native	3%
Asian	3%
Black/African American	6%
Hispanic	11%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<0.5%
Multiple race	2%
White	67%
Did not self-identify	16%

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