



National Apprenticeship Week
Illinois Workforce Innovation Board - Apprenticeship Illinois Committee

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is a nationwide celebration recognizing the value of apprenticeships in building a skilled workforce and fostering career opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, apprenticeships provide a pathway to economic opportunity, workforce development, and enhanced productivity by combining paid on-the-job learning with classroom instruction in a wide range of industries; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Apprenticeship Illinois Committee is proud to have launched a robust cohort of 2024 Apprentice Ambassadors, a group of dedicated individuals committed to promoting the power of apprenticeships across Illinois and sharing their stories of success; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board's Apprenticeship Illinois Committee has worked to engage employers, educators, and community organizations to expand and strengthen apprenticeship programs in Illinois, contributing to the continued success and growth of the state's workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Apprenticeship Illinois Committee has led successful efforts to connect employers with apprenticeship opportunities through a comprehensive Employer Survey, which provided valuable insights into current industry needs, barriers, and opportunities for growth in apprenticeship programs across Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Apprenticeship Illinois Committee hosted a series of focus groups and roundtables with employers, training providers, and key stakeholders, fostering a collaborative environment for sharing best practices and identifying ways to further improve and expand apprenticeship offerings throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week provides an opportunity to celebrate the success of these efforts and acknowledge the significant role that apprenticeships play in ensuring a diverse, skilled, and resilient workforce for Illinois' future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Daniel Serota**, Vice President of Governmental Affairs at Aon and Chair of the Apprenticeship Illinois Committee, on behalf of the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board, do hereby proclaim **National Apprenticeship Week**, from **November 18-24, 2024**, to honor the achievements of apprentices, employers, educators, and training providers throughout Illinois.

I urge all Illinoisans to recognize the important contributions of apprenticeships to our economy and workforce and encourage the continued expansion of apprenticeship opportunities to foster career growth, increase access to high-quality training, and ensure a prosperous future for our state.

Signed

Daniel Serota

Daniel Serota
Chair, Apprenticeship Illinois Committee
Illinois Workforce Innovation Board

Date: November 21, 2024