



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON  
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, despite increases over the last several years, nationally women still make up only 4.4% of apprentices in the construction trades; and

WHEREAS, based on national apprenticeship data from 2023, Hispanic women make up 0.9% of apprentices in the construction industry, Black women make up 0.5%, Asian women make up 0.1%, and American Indian and Alaskan native women make up 0.1%; and

WHEREAS, rising costs of higher education and the resulting student loan debt, 64% of which is held by women, make apprenticeships a vital career pathway to economic stability as apprentices earn while they learn; and

WHEREAS, median wages for experienced construction workers in the Chicago area building trades was \$83,240 as of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the advancement and well-being of Chicago depends upon its ability to expand opportunities in its workforce that are inclusive of individuals who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality in their chosen fields; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering women affordable paths to secure financial security for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs are uniquely able to meet the changing demands of the Chicago's economy and provide a path for all qualified individuals, including women, youth, people of color, justice-involved individuals and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to Chicago's industries; and

WHEREAS, Chicago recognizes that Registered Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model, is a key strategy to improving job quality, and is committed to increasing access to good-paying, family-sustaining jobs for women through proven models like *Chicago Women in Trades' pre-apprenticeship training*;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRANDON JOHNSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim November 21, 2024, as WOMEN IN APPRENTISHIP DAY IN CHICAGO in recognition of the vital contributions women make to the construction trades and industries throughout our city and urge all Chicagoans to celebrate and support the advancement of women in apprenticeship.

Dated this 1st day of November, 2024.

  
Mayor