

## REND LAKE COLLEGE NAW PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of raising awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeship plays as a proven and industry-driven training model and as a key strategy to improving job quality, and creating access to good-paying, family-sustaining jobs for all, starting with youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, Rend Lake College recognizes the urgent need to prepare our students to address some of our nation's pressing workforce challenges such as rebuilding our country's infrastructure, addressing critical supply chain demands, supporting a clean energy workforce, modernizing our cybersecurity response, and responding to care economy issues; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering career seeking students affordable pathways to high-paying, good, quality jobs; and

WHEREAS, Rend Lake College recognizes the role of Registered Apprenticeship in expanding opportunities in our workforce that are inclusive of individuals who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality, thus providing a path for all qualified individuals, including women, youth, people of color, rural and tribal communities, justice-involved individuals and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to America's industries; and

WHEREAS, Rend Lake College recognizes the pivotal role educators, school counselors, and educational institutions serve in not only bringing awareness of Registered Apprenticeship opportunities to students and parents, but also serving as training providers, sponsors, and intermediaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Maggie Ervin, Director of Workforce Development at Rend Lake College; and, I, Terry Wilkerson, President at Rend Lake College call upon educators and local industry partners to recognize the value of Registered Apprenticeship, and to promote industry awareness and expansion during the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Apprenticeship Week: November 17, 2024, through November 23, 2024.

IN SUPPORT,

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