

THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802 340-774-0001

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the 9th Annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW): November 13-19, 2023, a nationwide celebration where industry, labor, equity, workforce, education, and government leaders host events to showcase the successes and value of Registered Apprenticeship (an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce) for re-building our economy, advancing racial and gender equity, and supporting underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, the theme for National Apprenticeship Week is "Registered Apprenticeship: Superhighway to Good Jobs"; and

WHEREAS, the advancement and well-being of the U.S. Virgin Islands depend upon the continued development of skilled workers in their chosen fields; and

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is an opportunity to highlight how Registered Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model, provides a critical talent pipeline that can help 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, apprenticeships are proven pathways to fulfilling careers in diverse industries such as information technology, healthcare, energy, aerospace, construction, advanced manufacturing, hospitality, financial services, and more; and

WHEREAS, apprenticeship programs are uniquely able to meet the changing demands of the U.S. economy and provide the education, skill acquisition, advance training and mentorship required to cultivate in-demand professionals through the earn-while-you-learn model; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Virgin Islands recognizes that robust apprenticeship cohort provides tangible value to both industry and government, with the potential to substantively increase the quality of life of job seekers, while increasing productivity, improve diversity and inclusion, and dramatically reducing operational, recruitment and training costs; and

WHEREAS, apprenticeship programs grow the capacity of the workforce and provide a pathway to a wealth of opportunity and options as well as a deliberate track to a career for job seekers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby proclaim November 13 – November 19, 2023, as "National Apprenticeship Week" in the United States Virgin Islands. I call upon the people of the Territory to recognize the benefits of apprenticeships for job seekers, employers, and our economy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 31st day of October, A. D. 2023.

Albert Bryan Jr. Governor

Attest:

Tregenza A. Roach, Esq. Lieutenant Governor