



Proclamation

National Apprenticeship Week April 26-May 2, 2026

Whereas, Penn Foster Group celebrates National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2026, marking the 12th annual nationwide recognition of the Registered Apprenticeship model, coinciding with the 250th Anniversary of the United States, underscoring the enduring role of workforce training in increasing American economic mobility; and

Whereas, the Registered Apprenticeship Program is a proven, industry-driven workforce strategy that builds talent pipelines in high-demand sectors including healthcare and skilled trades; and

Whereas, Penn Foster Group partners with employers, workforce development boards, and other educational institutions nationwide to deliver U.S. Department of Labor-approved Related Instruction (RI) in support of Registered Apprenticeship Programs; and

Whereas, Penn Foster Group is committed to expanding access to apprenticeship opportunities in the State of Alaska, particularly in healthcare, skilled trades, and other priority sectors essential to Alaska's economic resilience and long-term growth; and

WHEREAS, Penn Foster Group through allied health care career training programs empowers learners in the local community, offering an opportunity for educational advancement and creating a pathway to economic mobility while preparing for future careers; and

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week serves as an opportunity to highlight the role of apprenticeship in fostering economic growth, reducing unemployment, and creating pathways for all individuals, including youth opportunity, to secure sustainable and meaningful employment; and

WHEREAS, Penn Foster Group supports young people through pre-apprenticeship programs that provide real-world experience in fields such as construction, healthcare, and information technology, fostering a diverse workforce that is prepared for the future; and

WHEREAS, Penn Foster Group recognizes the role of Registered Apprenticeships in expanding opportunities in our workforce for those who have been disconnected from school or work, or 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, Penn Foster Group recognizes the pivotal role educators, and pre-apprenticeship programs play in not only raising students', parents', and trusted guardians' awareness of

Registered Apprenticeship opportunities but also serving as training providers, sponsors, and intermediaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Kermit Cook, Chief Executive Officer of Penn Foster Group, do recognize the importance of apprenticeship programs and will continue to support National Apprenticeship Day on April 26, 2026.