

**ADMINISTERED BY**

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West Michigan Works!

**Construction Careers Council****NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026 PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week annually raises awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeships provide in meeting critical industry workforce demands. Registered Apprenticeship programs develop the highly skilled workforce that employers need and create pathways for Americans to catapult into in-demand, high-paying careers; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs are industry-driven, high-quality career pathways that enable employers to develop and train their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience with a mentor, receive progressive wage increases, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Careers Council recognizes the urgent need to prepare and maintain a highly skilled workforce that is capable of meeting the current and future demands of the industry we serve and fortifying our economy.

WHEREAS, Construction Careers Council 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, program sponsors, and intermediaries.

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs are uniquely able to meet the changing demands of the West Michigan economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rachel Austin, Chair of the Construction Careers Council, call upon stakeholders and partners to recognize the value of Registered Apprenticeship, and to promote awareness and expansion during National Apprenticeship Week.

IN SUPPORT,

Rachel Austin, Chair, Construction Careers Council