

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 Watauga County Board of Commissioners recognizes the urgent need to prepare and maintain a highly skilled workforce that is capable of meeting the current and future demands of local businesses and industries and fortifying our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Commissioners 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; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs are uniquely able to meet the changing demands of Watauga County's economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Watauga County Board of Commissioners do hereby declare April 26 to May 2, 2026 as National Apprenticeship Week 2026 in Watauga County.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Watauga County Board of Commissioners calls upon stakeholders and partners to recognize the value of Registered Apprenticeship, and to promote awareness and expansion during National Apprenticeship Week.

ADOPTED, this the 21st day of April, 2026.