



## NATIONAL UNIVERSITY NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is a nationwide celebration coordinated by the U.S. Department of Labor to highlight the value of Registered Apprenticeship as a proven workforce development strategy that strengthens the economy and expands access to high-quality, in-demand careers; *and*

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship is an earn-and-learn model that combines paid, job-embedded experience with structured education and mentorship, enabling individuals to advance professionally while meeting workforce needs across critical sectors, including education; *and*

WHEREAS, communities across the United States continue to face persistent shortages of qualified K–12 educators, underscoring the urgent need for innovative, accessible, and sustainable pathways into the teaching profession; *and*

WHEREAS, National University, a veteran-founded, nonprofit institution based in San Diego, California since 1971, has served working adults, military-connected learners, and other nontraditional students for more than five decades through flexible, career-aligned academic programs; *and*

WHEREAS, National University is recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor as the first veteran-founded institution of higher education in California to sponsor a Registered Apprenticeship Program for aspiring K–12 teachers, demonstrating national leadership in educator workforce innovation; *and*

WHEREAS, these efforts reflect National University’s commitment to Whole Human Education™, advancing educational attainment, workforce development, and economic mobility while supporting learners who balance education with work, family, and service; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE, National University proudly proclaims April 26 through May 2, 2026, as National Apprenticeship Week, and reaffirms its commitment to expanding Registered Apprenticeship pathways, strengthening partnerships with school districts and workforce leaders, and elevating the teaching profession through innovative, inclusive, and community-centered solutions—empowering National University “ANDers” who are learning and working, leading and serving, for the benefit of learners and communities across the United States.

IN SUPPORT,

**Dr. Mark D. Milliron**  
President & CEO

**Dr. Robert Lee**  
Dean, Sanford College  
Education

**Dr. Chris Graham**  
EVP, Workforce &  
Community Education

**Dr. Suzanne West**  
Director, Experiential  
Learning & Apprenticeships

