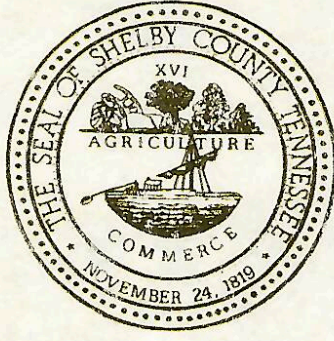


# SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT



## PROCLAMATION

By The Mayor

**WHEREAS:** National Apprenticeship Week annually raises awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeships provide in meeting critical industry workforce demands; and

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

**WHEREAS:** The Karen Hearts Foundation, a Memphis-based nonprofit educational and workforce development institution, recognizes the urgent need to prepare and maintain a highly skilled workforce capable of meeting the current and future demands of industry while strengthening the economic vitality of Memphis and Shelby County; and

**WHEREAS:** Since 2023, the Karen Hearts Foundation has worked to expand apprenticeship awareness, workforce training initiatives, and career readiness programs across Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS:** The Karen Hearts Foundation recognizes the pivotal role educators, school counselors, workforce professionals, and educational institutions play in bringing opportunities to students and families while serving as training providers, program sponsors, and workforce intermediaries; and

**WHEREAS:** Shelby County proudly recognizes two U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Ambassadors located in our community, LaQuita D. Wright and Patrick Jenkins, who are part of a national cohort of approximately 144 Apprenticeship Ambassadors across the United States dedicated to expanding and promoting high-quality Registered Apprenticeship programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lee Harris, Mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee, do hereby proclaim this week of the 26th day of April until the 2nd day of May 2026 in honor of

## National Apprenticeship Week 2026

in Shelby County in honor of the ongoing efforts of Karen Hearts Foundation CEO LaQuita D. Wright and Patrick Jenkins, who are leaders of exceptional workforce development.



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Shelby County to be affixed this 26th day of April of 2026.

Lee Harris  
Mayor of Shelby County