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**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRY AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT (NIICA)
NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026 PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week annually raises awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeship programs provide in meeting critical workforce demands across industries; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs develop the highly skilled workforce that employers need and create pathways for individuals to enter in-demand, high-quality careers; 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, hands-on experience, progressive wages, related technical instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute for Industry and Career Advancement (NIICA) recognizes the urgent need to prepare and sustain a highly skilled workforce capable of meeting the current and future demands of critical industries, including advanced manufacturing, the defense industrial base, AI and related infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, NIICA works in partnership with employers, educational institutions, and workforce organizations to design and scale Registered Apprenticeship programs that align training with real-world industry needs, helping to strengthen talent pipelines and expand access to opportunity; and

WHEREAS, educational partners play a critical role in the success of Registered Apprenticeship programs by supporting awareness, delivering related instruction, and collaborating with industry to ensure learners are prepared for high-skill, high-demand careers; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs are a proven and scalable workforce strategy that supports economic growth, innovation, and long-term competitiveness, particularly as industries evolve alongside emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and advanced digital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, as the United States marks its 250th year, National Apprenticeship Week 2026 highlights the importance of aligning workforce and education systems to build a strong, resilient workforce prepared for the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael A. Russo, President & CEO of NIICA, do hereby recognize April 26 to May 2, 2026 as National Apprenticeship Week 2026 and call upon employers, educators, workforce partners, and community stakeholders to recognize the value of Registered Apprenticeship and support its continued expansion.

IN SUPPORT,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Russo", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Russo
President & CEO, NIICA