



PROCLAMATION OF THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO

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Youth Apprenticeship Week

- WHEREAS:** Youth Apprenticeship Week is celebrating its inaugural year of raising awareness of the vital role that Youth Apprenticeships play in providing job opportunities and pathways to the people of Puerto Rico by allowing youth apprentices to earn while they learn and advance into good, quality jobs and well-paying careers and the ability to advance in those careers;
- WHEREAS:** Youth Apprenticeship Week is designed to increase awareness of Registered Apprenticeships among youth, educators, parents, state agencies, workforce partners, industry and to highlight the benefits of apprenticeships as a pathway to careers;
- WHEREAS:** This observance gives apprenticeship sponsors, career and technical education (CTE) programs, employers, labor unions, workforce agencies and other diverse partners the opportunity to showcase the value of Registered Apprenticeship programs for youth and gives youth apprentices a platform to highlight their apprenticeship experience;
- WHEREAS:** The advancement and well-being of Puerto Rico depends upon its ability to expand opportunities in its workforce that are inclusive of youth and young adults who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality in their chosen fields;
- WHEREAS:** Registered Apprenticeship programs are uniquely able to meet the changing demands of Puerto Rico's economy and provide a path for all qualified individuals, including women, youth, people of color, rural communities, justice-involved individuals and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to America's industries;
- WHEREAS:** Puerto Rico recognizes that both Youth Apprenticeship and other Registered Apprenticeship programs in general, are proven, industry-driven training models that foster improvements in job quality while creating access to good-paying, family-sustaining jobs for all, starting with youth and young adults;