

# Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative



The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) is committed to strengthening, modernizing, diversifying, and expanding Registered Apprenticeship to support the success of workers, employers, and communities across the country.

DOL's [Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative](#) is designed to create a national network of diverse apprentices and apprenticeship graduates (graduates) of all ages and backgrounds to serve as champions for Registered Apprenticeship by sharing their perspectives, success stories, and experience as apprentices.

## WHAT IS THE APPRENTICE TRAILBLAZER INITIATIVE?

As champions for Registered Apprenticeship, Apprentice Trailblazers partner with DOL and [Apprenticeship Ambassadors](#) to:

- ▶ Share experiences and perspectives on the benefits of Registered Apprenticeship as an affordable pathway to secure high-paying jobs;
- ▶ Identify innovative ideas and strategies to strengthen, modernize, diversify, and expand Registered Apprenticeship;
- ▶ Increase support for underrepresented and underserved populations by educating the public and potential future apprentices about the benefits of Registered Apprenticeship, including youth, women, people of color, people with disabilities, rural communities, and justice-involved individuals; and
- ▶ Promote and expand awareness of the benefits of Registered Apprenticeship for career seekers as a means of accessing good, quality jobs that provide stability and security for workers and their families.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF APPRENTICE TRAILBLAZERS?

Apprentice Trailblazers and their Registered Apprenticeship sponsors will join a national movement to modernize Registered Apprenticeship; increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in Registered Apprenticeship; engage industry in new and emerging sectors; and expand pre-apprenticeship, youth apprenticeship, and degree apprenticeship across America. Apprentice Trailblazers will assist with the following activities during their 1-year term:

**Apprentice Success Stories and Perspective:** Share success stories, testimonials, and perspectives on the Registered Apprenticeship experience. Other examples of possible activities in this area could include:

- ▶ Share success stories or other apprentice testimonials regarding Registered Apprenticeship in writing or video;



- ▶ Share perspectives on Registered Apprenticeship and program experiences; and
- ▶ Brainstorm ideas and provide feedback on strategies to help strengthen, modernize, diversify, and expand Registered Apprenticeship.

**Promotion and Partnership:** Participate in outreach activities and events promoting Registered Apprenticeship and create new partnerships and activities to further support apprentices and bring awareness to other career seekers who may be interested in becoming apprentices. Examples of promotional or partnership activities could include:

- ▶ Create a peer apprentice working group within your organization, community, or industry to promote Registered Apprenticeship;
- ▶ Promote Registered Apprenticeship on social media;
- ▶ Serve as a speaker for DOL events or panels promoting Registered Apprenticeship; and
- ▶ Join DOL Office of Apprenticeship Industry Groups and other activities in support of Registered Apprenticeship.

### WHO CAN BE AN APPRENTICE TRAILBLAZER?

Current apprentices or graduates from a Registered Apprenticeship program in good standing who have demonstrated exemplary leadership, mentoring, teamwork, promotional activities, and/or have a transformative story as an apprentice are eligible to become an Apprentice Trailblazer. The first cohort of Apprentice Trailblazers is focused on youth apprentices (ages 16-24) who have participated in a Registered Apprenticeship program for at least 6 months or recent youth apprenticeship graduates within the past 3 years. Graduates must be currently working in an industry/occupation similar to their completed Registered Apprenticeship program.

Apprentices or graduates that are interested in becoming an Apprentice Trailblazer should first contact their Registered Apprenticeship sponsor to discuss participating in the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative and the application process. A complete application is required, including signatures from the apprentice or graduate, their Registered Apprenticeship sponsor, and if applicable, their parent or legal guardian.



### WHY BECOME AN APPRENTICE TRAILBLAZER?

- ▶ Obtain national recognition from DOL as an Apprentice Trailblazer;
- ▶ Join a network of apprentices and graduates to engage in peer mentoring and share best practices and lessons learned;
- ▶ Serve as a role model and spokesperson for career seekers across the country by sharing your story and experience as an apprentice;
- ▶ Professional development, including skill building in teamwork, leadership, and public speaking as you engage with your peers and stakeholders;
- ▶ Network with [Apprenticeship Ambassadors](#) and cultivate mentoring relationships; and
- ▶ Partner with DOL to shape Registered Apprenticeship expansion and diversification in your industry, local area, and across the country.

## Explore Registered Apprenticeship Today!

Want to learn more? Visit the U.S. Department of Labor's one-stop source for all things apprenticeship: [www.apprenticeship.gov](http://www.apprenticeship.gov) or email us at [apprenticeship@dol.gov](mailto:apprenticeship@dol.gov).

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