

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual National Apprenticeship Week Electronics Industry Proclamation

November 13, 2023

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week (Nov. 13-19, 2023) is celebrating its 9th anniversary of raising awareness of the vital role that Registered Apprenticeships play in preparing students for high-quality, well-paying jobs in the United States' manufacturing industries; and,

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeships open doors to these strategically important careers by allowing apprentices to earn while they learn; and,

WHEREAS, IPC International, Inc. (IPC) represents more than 3,200 member companies across all facets of the \$2 trillion electronics supply chain – including design, printed circuit board manufacturing, electronics assembly, advanced packaging, suppliers and testing companies – of which 80% are small- and medium-sized businesses and all of whom face constant struggles to find, hire, and retain skilled workers; and,

WHEREAS, the United States has become a leader in designing electronic systems that it cannot build at home or build at scale because it has lost much of its domestic manufacturing base and workforce over the last 25 years; and,

WHEREAS, secure and resilient domestic supply chains for electronics products, including skilled workers to build them, are vitally important resources for the United States to defend its national security and economic competitiveness; and,

WHEREAS, IPC recognizes the urgent need to prepare and maintain a diverse and highly-skilled workforce that is capable of meeting the needs of all facets of the electronics industry; and,

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce for lucrative and dynamic careers within their companies; and,

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeships lower obstacles to training and employment by opening alternative paths to quality jobs, especially for individuals who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality including women, youth, people of color, immigrants, rural communities, justice-involved individuals, and individuals with disabilities; and,



BUILD ELECTRONICS BETTER

WHEREAS, IPC has created “earn and learn” programs that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor as Registered Apprenticeship programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John W. Mitchell, President and CEO of IPC International, proclaim the value of Registered Apprentice programs in our industry, and I call upon leaders of the electronics industry to do the same and to promote industry awareness and expansion of such programs in the months and years to come.

IN SUPPORT,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John W. Mitchell', is written in a cursive style.

John W. Mitchell  
IPC President and CEO