

apprenticeship

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WORKS

Minnesota receives \$5M federal grant to expand registered apprenticeship

The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded the State of Minnesota a \$5 million dollar grant to assist in its efforts to expand registered apprenticeship under its Minnesota Apprenticeship Initiative (MAI). The grant targets five industries for expansion: advanced manufacturing, agriculture, health care services, information technology and transportation.

“Registered apprenticeship has provided generations of hardworking and industrious Minnesotans the opportunity to develop skills-in-demand and achieve economic success,” said Ken Peterson, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) commissioner. “Our agency is excited to build public and private partnerships to help expanding industries develop their 21st Century workforce and create economic opportunities for all, especially for women and minorities.”

MAI was developed in partnership with more than 100 employers statewide to create, expand and support registered apprenticeship programs in 29 high-growth occupations for more than 800 new registered apprentices.

MAI activities include outreach and recruitment, co-enrolled program intake, assessment, adult basic education where necessary, wrap-around support services, career guidance, life skills coaching and counseling, structured on-the-job training, competency based technical instruction and state-issued industry-recognized credentials.

The goal of MAI is to leverage public and private infrastructure and resources to support and grow registered apprenticeship. This initiative involves a council of leaders from each industry, creates a common language and understanding of occupational competencies, and develops delivery models for employer-driven, apprentice-focused career training. Apprentices and employers will be supported by resources available through the DLI’s Apprenticeship Division and the Department of Employment and Economic Development.



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Minnesota eclipsed more than 11,000 active registered apprentices this year — up from approximately 6,600 in 2011. Minnesota’s apprenticeship employers and the state’s construction labor unions have increased their focus on outreach and recruiting of women and minorities. These efforts have resulted in the number of apprentices that are women and minorities rising from 17 percent in 2011 to 26 percent in 2015.

DLI is committed to building on-going partnerships with schools, unions, employers and community-based organizations to continue to make apprenticeship opportunities available to more Minnesota workers.

About apprenticeship

Registered apprenticeship is a time-tested employee training system combining job-related technical instruction with structured on-the-job learning experiences. Registered apprenticeship prepares Minnesota workers to compete in a global 21st Century economy and develops highly-trained, skilled and motivated employees.

To learn more about registered apprenticeship, visit www.dli.mn.gov/Appr.asp.