



U.S. DOL Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Technical Assistance (TA) Center of Excellence Newsletter

February 2024 Edition

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TA Resources and Tools

Center Webinars: Leveling Up and Gauging Your Workforce Board's Alignment with RA

The Center has created a draft tool designed to help local workforce boards assess their potential "level" of alignment with RA and identify clear next steps for utilizing RA to meet local employment needs while also meeting critical Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) performance metrics. View these recorded sessions to learn more about the draft tool and hear from DOL OA staff walk through proposed "levels" of workforce/RA alignment, including indicators and next steps.



Leveling Up Your Workforce Board's Alignment with Registered Apprenticeship helps your workforce board consider how to get started in adopting RA or supporting RA programs in your area. It's also valuable if you've taken some first steps but wonder what a higher level of workforce RA system



Gauging Registered Apprenticeship Alignment for Workforce Boards focuses on how Workforce Boards can take steps to align and level up their RA activities. This session walks through half of the levels with a focus on how local boards have taken next steps to further incorporate RA as a workforce solution

New RA Academy Module on WIOA Credential Attainment Rate (CAR) and RA



The new [DOL RA Academy](#) provides customized education and training on foundational RA topics for key stakeholder groups. The Academy recently posted a new module on the use of WIOA funding for RA programs that may last longer than WIOA services are available. This timeline to access WIOA funding has caused

some hesitancy on the part of boards to utilize WIOA to support RA. Maria Remboulis Brady discusses opportunities for local boards and their One-Stop Operators to achieve positive outcomes on the WIOA CAR while supporting longer-term RA programs by offering interim credentials or other industry-recognized certifications. View the video module, "The WIOA Credential Attainment Rate & Longer-Term Registered Apprenticeship Programs" through [this link](#).

Apprenticeship Partnership and Alignment News

Identifying Apprenticeship Networks Nationwide

The Center is seeking your assistance in identifying active and naturally established (generally non-DOL funded) apprenticeship networks. These networks typically consist of representatives from industry, labor, workforce, education, intermediaries, and community-based organizations and are typically organically grown, starting in response to an identified need for critical occupational growth in geographic regions and/or to increase apprenticeship participation by certain demographics.



The Center is interested in holding virtual interviews with apprenticeship networks to understand how they were founded, their goals and connections, and what type of technical assistance may be of interest to scale the creation of new networks and strengthen existing ones.

If you are involved in, or aware of, any apprenticeship networks in your region, please [fill out this form](#), and Center staff will follow up for a one-on-one virtual meeting.

Apprenticeship Colorado Opportunity to Accelerate and Expand RA Through Intermediaries



As part of state legislation ([HB21-1007](#)), the Colorado State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA), Apprenticeship Colorado, recently announced a statewide initiative to recognize "Qualified Apprenticeship Intermediaries" which will be eligible for competitive funding opportunities and other benefits. Organizations can apply for recognition as either an **Industry Apprenticeship Intermediary** (focusing on

serving employer needs) and/or **Talent Apprenticeship Intermediary** (focusing on carer seeker and apprentice needs). Public and private entities are encouraged to apply. Learn more including state funding opportunities to support registered apprenticeship expansion [on the SAA's website](#).

DOL Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative Accepting Applications for Next Cohort

The [Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative](#) creates a national network of employers, labor organizations, worker advocates, industry associations, program sponsors, educators, workforce intermediaries, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to serve as champions for modernizing, expanding, and diversifying RA. Since the Initiative was launched in 2021, the U.S. DOL has selected over [300 Ambassadors](#).



RA sponsors, employers with RA experience, related technical instruction providers, sponsors of pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to RA, and community-based organizations who have seen the value and benefits of RA, are encouraged to check out the [Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative](#) website for more information and [submit an application](#). The Department is currently accepting applications for the third cohort of Ambassadors through **February 29th**. Please direct questions to ApprenticeshipAmbassadors@dol.gov.

Center of Excellence News

Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) CareerTech Vision 2023

In December, Katie Adams, Center Project Director and Chief Delivery Officer at Safal Partners, and Angela Baker, RA SME and Apprenticeship Program Coordinator for Special School District of St. Louis, Adult Education Department, presented at ACTE's CareerTech Vision 2030 on "Braiding



Grants and Workforce Funding for Apprenticeship Support." There was more than robust attendance of over 60 participants, comprising CTE state and local administrators, instructors, education administrators, and policymakers at the annual conference. [Click here to access the workshop presentation.](#)

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Workforce Development Institute Conference

The Center moderated two panels on strategic partnership development and community college system alignment efforts with RA at the AACC annual Workforce Development Institute in January. The Center's panel on "Being Purposeful with Earn and Learn Models" showcased RA programs at [Howard Community College](#) (MD), [Lake Region State College](#) (ND), and through the [South Bay Workforce Investment Board](#) (CA); "It Takes a Village to



Develop a Workforce" showcased the work of the **Lumina Foundation** (*Georgia Reagan, Strategy Officer, Employment Aligned Credential Programs, above right*), **Cuyahoga Community College** (*Shana Marbury, Executive Vice President Workforce, Community & Economic Development, above center*), and the **Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives** (*Amy Shields, Executive Director, above left*). Both sessions enjoyed overwhelming attendance, with standing-room-only crowds.

Upcoming Events

February 29, 2024

Part Two: Gauging Workforce Board Alignment with Registered Apprenticeship

Location: Online

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm ET



This session will continue interactive discussion on the Center's draft tool to help local workforce boards assess their current "level" of workforce and apprenticeship system alignment. This is the second in a two-part series walking through the individual levels with a focus on how local boards have taken next steps to further incorporate RA as a workforce solution for local jobseekers and employers.

[Register Here](#)

March 4-6, 2024

**National Youth
Employment Coalition**

Location: Atlanta, GA



The annual forum is a national conference that brings together youth leaders, practitioners, policymakers, and stakeholders interested in advancing the lives of opportunity youth and young adults. Participants will co-create a space for sharing best practices, innovative ideas, advocacy strategies, and practical solutions to common challenges. DOL RA TA Center staff and Subject Matter Experts will present a workshop on creating a high-quality youth apprenticeship program for opportunity youth.

[Register Here](#)

March 10-13, 2024

**Southeastern Employment and
Training Association Spring
Conference**

SETA

Location: Cherokee, NC

SETA provides professional growth opportunities for all workforce development partners. Since 1973, SETA has provided a forum for thousands of workforce professionals in the Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Join DOL RA TA Center staff Melissa Aguilar-Southard and Alan Dodkowitz, joined by DOL OA Workforce Liaison/Program Analyst Jeff Smith for their session at SETA's Spring Conference on "How the Investing in America Agenda can Provide Registered Apprenticeship Pathways for Opportunity Youth."

[Register Here](#)

March 17-20, 2024

**Coalition on Adult Basic
Education (COABE) Annual
Conference**

Location: Nashville, TN



Center partner, COABE, hosts the annual world's largest adult education conference with 15 strands, comprised of almost 500 break-out sessions. The Center will be presenting on "Expanding Pre-Apprenticeship Opportunities for Adult Learners-Technical Assistance to Grow Your Program."

[Register Here](#)

March 23-26, 2024

**The Forum by the National Association of
Workforce Boards**

Location: Washington, DC



Learn directly from the nation's most informed experts about workforce policy, initiatives, and trends. The Forum attendees will deepen their understanding of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, hear practical examples of its application, and get to ask questions firsthand.

The Center will be presenting on "Investing in America Agenda: Positioning your Board for Strategic Apprenticeship Partnerships" Hear from RA SMEs Alan Dodkowitz (Safal Partners), Brent Weil (Wireless Infrastructure Association), Jeff Smith (US DOL Office of Apprenticeship), and James Disbrow (Career Source Suncoast).

[Register Here](#)



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