



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

September 2024 Edition

- **Center TA Resources and Events** - ATR/BSR Training Series, Aligning the Workforce and RA Systems, Scaling RA with Industry, Building Student Awareness of Apprenticeship Career Pathways
- **Department of Labor (DOL) News** - National Apprenticeship Week, Clean Energy Tax Credits, U.S. DOL Grants awarded
- **Upcoming Events** - 2024 CAEL Conference, ApprenticeshipPA, NAWDP Youth Symposium, Missouri Apprenticeship Summit

Center TA Resources and Events



Apprenticeship system Apprenticeship Training Representatives (ATRs) and workforce system Business Service Representatives (BSRs) play key roles in accelerating alignment between the two systems. The Center held the first national ATR & BSR Training Series, designed to increase system knowledge and

collaboration among both stakeholders. The virtual series was presented this summer and attended by nearly 1,000 ATRs, BSRs, and system leaders. The five-part series featured several DOL Employment and Training Administration leaders, including Office of Apprenticeship (OA) Administrator John Ladd and Office of Workforce Investment (OWI) Director of Adult Services and Governance Robert Kight, as well as practitioners from the field who shared promising practices. The series was recorded for ongoing accessibility, and can be viewed through the following links:

For Business Services Representatives

- **Session 1: [Understanding Registered Apprenticeship as a Business Services Opportunity](#)** - How RA is structured and aligns with the workforce system, recent initiatives, funding opportunities, partners, and how to speak to employers about RA.
- **Session 2: [Industry and Workforce: Making Apprenticeship Central to WIOA Business Services](#)** - How RA bolsters the success of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)-funded business services, the role of the RA system, and how to collaborate with ATRs.

For Apprenticeship Training Representatives

- **Session 1: [Understanding the Public Workforce System and Business Services Representative Role](#)** - How Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) make policy and funding decisions related to RA, and the BSR role.
- **Session 2: [Promising Practices for Building Effective ATR/BSR Partnerships](#)** - How to engage BSRs for collaborative industry outreach on RA, promising practices for engaging with BSRs and other LWDB staff, and what

successful ATR/BSR collaborations can look like.

Capstone Session

- [ATRs and BSRs: Collaborating to Expand Registered Apprenticeship](#) - How ATRs and BSRs have a shared mission related to employer engagement, and can collaborate to accelerate industry understanding and adoption of RA, and hire WIOA-eligible job seekers who are served by LWDB case managers. This session showcases effective ATR and BSR partnerships.

Center Presents on RA/WIOA Alignment at National Workforce Systems Conference

Center partner, [The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals](#), teamed up with the [Maryland Workforce Association](#) to offer a Business Services Academy in August. The academy was designed to equip BSRs with the tools, knowledge, and expertise needed to implement seamless business service delivery. Center staff, Alan Dodkowitz (Safal Partners Senior RA SME), Stacy O'Keefe (Safal Partners Workforce SME), and Melissa Byers (CareerSource Brevard Flagler Volusia Business Liaison and Apprenticeship Navigator) presented a workshop on [Registered Apprenticeship: An Employer Pipeline Solution and Why You Should be Selling It](#). The 367 participants represented Executive Directors and BSRs from local workforce development boards (LWDBs) nationwide. Speakers shared how RA can be an effective service offering for local employers as a talent pipeline tool and how RA can help LWDBs meet WIOA performance metrics.



Melissa Byers, Business Liaison and Apprenticeship Navigator at CareerSource Brevard Flagler Volusia



The workshop was one of the most well-attended events at the conference.



Alan Dodkowitz, Subject Matter Expert at Safal Partners

Aligning the Workforce and Apprenticeship Systems: RA and WIOA 101 for Case Managers



To increase the number of American job seekers entering RA career pathways with AJC support, both LWDB leadership and front-line American Job Center (AJC) Career One Stop staff need to understand WIOA/RA alignment and processes for co-enrollment. Center staff Haylie Schuster (Safal Partners RA SME) and Lisa Rice (Safal Partners

Workforce SME) presented on the topic through the webinar [Aligning the Workforce and Apprenticeship Systems: RA and WIOA 101 for Case Managers](#). Pre-webinar

polling found that of the 454 webinar participants:

- 75% had no or very limited understanding of RA and how it could be used by their organization,
- 52% did not know how to co-enroll in WIOA and RA or are interested but don't know how to start.

However, post-webinar polling found that 83% planned to immediately implement the training or bring the information back to decision-makers or front-line staff with the ability to implement WIOA/RA co-enrollment guidance. The training is available through the links above on the Center's website.

Scaling Strategic RA Partnerships with Industry: Engaging Chambers of Commerce with ACCE, State Systems with Intermediaries

Chambers of Commerce are a key stakeholder group for workforce and education systems to accelerate RA expansion with local employers. Center staff have worked with the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) to determine the field's understanding and engagement in RA. Last spring, ACCE worked with the Center to poll their 9,000 members representing 1,300 chambers on the topic of apprenticeship, and of the respondents:

- 78% indicated they would like to promote RA to local employers,
- 78% said it was a medium or high priority for their chamber, and
- 74% indicated an interest in convening employers to identify gaps in the local apprenticeship ecosystem.

In July, Center RA SMEs, Jeremy Faulkner, Alan Dodkowitz, and Nicole Bentley were joined by Erin Riffle from the Greater Cleveland Partnership to present at ACCE's annual conference on [Understanding and Supporting Registered Apprenticeship in Your Community](#). Participants explored the core components of RA, gained insights into the current role of chambers of commerce in RA, and learned effective methods for engaging RA stakeholders. The Center will be producing an RA toolkit for Chambers of Commerce to be disseminated by ACCE and the Center.



In addition to Chambers of Commerce, the Center is helping state workforce and education systems advance RA strategic partnerships by increasing their awareness of the function of RA intermediary organizations. Center partner [FASTPORT](#) developed a multi-industry RA forum model to convene workforce, educational, and industry stakeholders with state apprenticeship agencies. The first [state-based session](#) was held with the Kansas State Apprenticeship Agency



on June 4th at the Chamber of Commerce offices (*pictured above*) with 110 attendees. Key stakeholders included KansasWorks, Workforce Partnership, and school system leadership. Industry Intermediaries representing advanced manufacturing, wireless telecommunications, IT and cybersecurity, agriculture, and transportation shared how they operate and can facilitate RA alignment and strategic partnership efforts between education systems, workforce boards, and employers. The Center is working with RA

leadership in other states, including Florida, Louisiana, Colorado, and Indiana, to host similar events. To learn more about how the Center can support similar work in your state contact ra_coe@safalpartners.com.

Building Student Awareness of Apprenticeship Career Pathways



Center staff Alan Dodkowitz (Safal Senior RA SME) and DOL OA Workforce Liaison/Program Analyst Jeff Smith presented the webinar, [Building Student Awareness of Apprenticeship Career Pathways](#), designed to empower educators, practitioners, and stakeholders with the knowledge and tools

needed to seamlessly connect education with RA programs.

The informative session equips viewers with the strategies and knowledge to bridge the gap between education and apprenticeship, ultimately benefiting students and the workforce. The presentation includes comprehensive data and statistics that highlight the impact and success rates of RA programs, the benefits of combining traditional education with RA, including enhanced skills acquisition, job readiness, and long-term career success. Access the training at the link above to learn about examples of successfully implemented education-to-apprenticeship pathways.

DOL Apprenticeship News

National Apprenticeship Week

[The 10th annual National Apprenticeship Week \(NAW\)](#) will take place from November 17-23, 2024. We encourage all Center partners to participate by featuring your RA program successes and learning from others.



Each day of NAW will focus on a different theme:

- Monday: Youth Apprenticeship Day
- Tuesday: RA in New and Emerging Industries and Around the Globe
- Wednesday: Expanding RA to Underserved Populations
- Thursday: Women in Apprenticeship
- Friday: Federal Apprenticeship and Veterans in Apprenticeship

[Hosting an event](#) during NAW allows apprenticeship stakeholders to showcase their programs, facilities, and the apprentices in their community. Visit the [NAW Resources page](#) to view their [Event Planning Toolkit](#), [Factsheet](#), and [Virtual Event Guide](#), [register to host](#) NAW events, and [submit a proclamation](#).

Rules Set for Clean Energy Apprenticeship Tax Credits

In June, U.S. DOL set [final rules](#) on wage and apprenticeship requirements for clean energy developers to receive tax credit increases for [renewable electricity production, clean electricity](#)



[investment, and clean hydrogen production](#) projects that hire laborers and mechanics including contractors and subcontractors. States with renewable energy sector strategies and workforce boards who have sector employers in their areas should learn more to help employers utilize these credits for registered apprentices who would need to work a certain percentage of labor hours on a project

with “good faith” of completion.

U.S. DOL Awards \$283M to Modernize, Diversify, and Expand Registered Apprenticeships

In July, the DOL awarded [\\$244 million through two grant programs](#). The [Apprenticeship Building America 2](#) initiative awarded \$195 million supporting public-private partnerships designed to create pre-apprenticeship and RA programs in industries such as K-12 education, clean energy, IT and cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, supply chain, hospitality, care economy, and public-sector occupations. The State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula 2 (SAEF2) Grants awarded [\\$39 million in grants](#) to 46 states and territories as [formula funding](#) to increase the capacity of RA programs across targeted industries. In addition, nine states received a total of \$49 million in competitive funding to establish post-secondary career pathways, collaborate with industry partners to address skill demands and enhance their ability to expand RA. These investments are part of the U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship's ongoing work to build a skilled, diverse workforce supporting the [Investing in America Agenda](#), including the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), and the [CHIPS and Science Act](#).



\$11.6M to Develop Clean Energy Industry Workforce in New York

In May, New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced [\\$11.6 million in funding to support clean energy industry workforce development initiatives in New York](#). The funding will launch four new workforce training programs connecting workers to clean energy jobs, with a focus on serving those who are traditionally underrepresented by incorporating wraparound services, e.g., assistance with transportation, childcare, housing costs, food, and other support.



Upcoming Events

October 30 - November 1, 2024

2024 CAEL Conference

Location: New Orleans, LA

Celebrating its 50th year, the CAEL Conference is an industry-leading conference for postsecondary education and training providers, workforce and economic development leaders, industry groups, and more.

Stop by our Center's booth to pick up resources and receive no-cost, expert SME-delivered TA.



[Register Here](#)

November 18-19, 2024



ApprenticeshipPA Collaborative and Expo

Location: Bethlehem, PA

2024 ApprenticeshipPA brings together industry, education, workforce, and stakeholders across Pennsylvania who want to strengthen apprenticeship employment and work-based models of training and development. The Center will be offering no-cost TA during office hours and at our exhibit booth. We will also be presenting, Building Student Awareness to Career Pathways.

[Register Here](#)

November 18-20, 2024



NAWDP Youth Symposium

Location: Phoenix, AZ

NAWDP's Youth Symposium has become one of the largest annual gatherings of workforce development professionals serving youth, with more than 900 attendees from across the country. Join the Center's workshop to learn from others' best practices in youth RA program and partnership development aligned with WIOA performance metrics. Make sure to stop by our booth as well for no-cost expert RA and WIOA from our subject matter experts!

[Register Here](#)

November 20-21, 2024

Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD)

Apprenticeship Missouri Summit

Location: Jefferson City, MO



Apprenticeship Missouri works with employers, providers and partners to build a diverse and skilled workforce in Missouri through apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities. During Apprenticeship Missouri's 7th Annual Apprenticeship Summit, the Center will be presenting a 1/2 day RA bootcamp

for BSRs.

[Learn More](#)



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