



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

December 2024 Edition

- **Center TA Resources** - Recorded Webinars and Presentations on Industry/Workforce Engagement, Youth Apprenticeship
- **National Apprenticeship News** - New WANTO Grants, AFA State Policy Report, Maryland Apprentice Connect website
- **Upcoming Events** - Chambers of Commerce Webinar, AACC Workforce Development Institute, NCPN Connect, SETA Spring Conference, and COABE National Conference

Center TA Resources and Events

Webinar: Equipping Business Service Representatives



America's public workforce system plays a key role in helping public and private sector employers build their talent pipelines. Business Services Representatives (BSRs) working for local workforce development boards (LWDBs) are well-positioned to help employers adopt RA.

The Center's recorded webinar, [Engaging Employers in RA: Tools and Tips for BSRs](#), provides an overview of RA, available funding streams to support employers' RA programs, and how RA can support LWDBs' Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) performance metrics.

Presentation: Providing RA Pathways for Opportunity Youth

The Center was honored to present [How the Investing In America \(IIA\) Agenda Can Provide RA Pathways for Opportunity Youth](#) at the [Pennsylvania Workforce Development's Association's](#) annual state Workforce Leader Symposium on how communities and workforce boards can partner around the IIA agenda to support the entry of more opportunity youth into RA pathways.



Supporting the State of Maryland's 2030 Youth Apprenticeship Goals



To help employers build stronger talent pipelines, the state of Maryland has set an ambitious goal that by the 2030-2031 school year, 45% of graduating seniors should complete an apprenticeship or earn an industry-recognized credential. Reaching this goal requires a significant expansion of youth apprenticeship across the state.

During the [Maryland Workforce Association's](#) annual Raising the Bar Conference, the Center presented "[Building Student Awareness of Apprenticeship Career Pathways to Meet MDs Ambitious Goals](#)." This presentation showcases data and statistics highlighting the impact and success rates of RA programs and benefits for employers and students in combining traditional education with RA. Industry experts also share examples of successful education-to-apprenticeship pathways.

Presentation: Partnerships for WIOA/RA Stakeholders

The public workforce system is dedicated to offering a comprehensive range of services for job seekers and businesses; however, navigating operational silos and building effective cross-program partnerships can be difficult. To help combat this challenge, the Center presented, [WIOA and RA: Taking the Partnership to the Next Level](#), at the annual Maryland Workforce Association's Raising the Bar Conference. The presentation outlines how WIOA and RA partners expand existing work and initiate new RA-focused partnerships. Learn:



- key intersections between WIOA and RA systems,
- best practices for fostering robust WIOA-RA collaborations, and
- common myths and misconceptions that hinder effective partnerships.

National Apprenticeship Week Highlights



Apprenticeship PA Collaborative and Expo



Center subject matter expert (SME), Alan Dodkowitz, led an interactive workshop on “[Building Student Awareness of Apprenticeship Career Pathways](#)” at the [PA Workforce Development Association's Apprenticeship PA Collaborative & Expo](#). Attendees from education, industry, and the state's workforce system learned how to develop, implement, and sustain youth RA and pre-apprenticeship programs.



Safal SMEs Alan Dodkowitz and Jeremy Faulkner



PA WDA members engaged in RA training at the conference.

National Association of Workforce Development Professionals 2024 Youth Symposium

Center SME, Melissa Aguilar-Southard, presented [Aligning the Workforce and Apprenticeship Systems: RA and WIOA 101 for Case Managers](#) during the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) 2024 Youth Symposium. This interactive workshop provided front-line workforce professionals with tools to develop policy and accelerate services leveraging WIOA funding to support youth RA and pre-apprenticeship involvement.



Urban Institute Vision 2030: Building the Future of Registered Apprenticeship

Urban Institute convened Vision 2030: Building the Future of Registered Apprenticeship, featuring federal and state policymakers to discuss keys to continued expansion and modernization of RA to create a stronger, future-ready American workforce. The event featured breakout sessions hosted by the four U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) national RA TA Centers of Excellence.



Safal Chief Delivery Officer, Katie Adams, and Senior SME, Alan Dodkowitz, were joined by Carrie Amman, Executive Director of the PA Workforce Development Association, and James Disbro, Senior Director of Regional Alignment & Programs Development at CareerSource Suncoast, in a standing-room-only session. The panel spoke on [the Center's work and data-driven research showing opportunities to increase public workforce system utilization of WIOA funding to support RA expansion for both job seekers and employers.](#)



(From left) PA Workforce Development Association Executive Director, Carrie Amman; Safal Sr. SME, Alan Dodkowitz; CareerSource Suncoast Senior Director of Regional Alignment & Programs Development, James Disbro; and Safal Chief Delivery Officer, Katie Adams.

U.S. Department of Labor (U.S. DOL) Apprenticeship News

U.S. DOL Announces \$6M in Grants to Expand Job Opportunities for Women in Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations



U.S. DOL announced the award of [\\$6 million in funding to help recruit, train, and retain more women](#) in quality pre-apprenticeship and RA programs, as well as in nontraditional occupations.

The Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grants will enable organizations in eight states and D.C. to provide training programs in fields where women are traditionally underrepresented, such as

construction, advanced manufacturing, energy, technology, and transportation.

[Learn more about the WANTO grant program and this year's recipients.](#)

Apprenticeship For America New State Policy Report

The nonprofit Apprenticeship for America (AFA) recently released a report on "[How States are Driving the Expansion of Apprenticeships: State Apprenticeship Policy Scan.](#)"



AFA analyzed data to identify growth trends at the state level, gathered information on legislation, policy, and executive activities, and interviewed state leaders. AFA recommended five promising practices:

1. Set targets for apprenticeship growth.
2. Use a pay-for-apprenticeship, formula-based funding approach to sustain and grow apprenticeships.
3. Partner with intermediaries to reduce the bureaucratic burdens and friction for employers in starting and running apprenticeship programs.
4. Set apprenticeship requirements in state public works contracts.
5. Set hiring rules, policies, and targets to use the public sector as a trailblazer for apprenticeships.

Maryland Apprenticeship Connector Launches 'Apprentice Connect' To Strengthen Statewide Workforce Pipeline



MARYLAND
APPRENTICESHIP CONNECTOR

Maryland Apprenticeship Connector recently launched [Apprentice Connect](#), a new website

designed to serve as a comprehensive resource for employers, educators, and career seekers interested in Maryland's apprenticeship opportunities.

Funded by the Maryland State Department of Education's Maryland Works Grant, Apprentice Connect helps employers find critical information on how apprenticeships can be integrated into talent pipeline strategies to recruit, train, and retain a skilled workforce. Educators can explore how to bring work-based learning into the classroom to prepare students for career success, whether or not they pursue traditional college paths. The site also helps career seekers explore apprenticeship opportunities and gain a clear understanding of the skills and support needed to succeed.

Upcoming Events

January 9, 2025

**How Chambers of Commerce
Can Understand and Support**

Registered Apprenticeship

Time: 1:00-2:00pm ET

Chambers of Commerce can play a vital role in helping members adopt RA. Center SMEs, Alan Dodkowitz, Nicole Bentley, and Jeremy Faulkner will be joined by

Amy Shields, the Executive Director of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Foundation and VP of Programs at ACCE, to discuss how chambers can play one or more primary roles in RA. The panel will also present findings from an ACCE assessment of member chambers' knowledge of RA and provide guidance on how chambers can effectively convene member employers on RA.

[Register Here](#)



January 28-31, 2025

**Workforce Development Institute 2025:
Uncharted Courses**

Location: Coronado, CA



Center Director, Katie Adams, and Safal SME, Melissa Schroeder, will host and moderate "Finding Your Organization's Best Fit with Registered Apprenticeship" at the AACCC WDI conference on 1/30 from 2:30-3:45 PT. This interactive panel discussion will provide insight for community colleges looking to position talent and potential funding streams for RA in their communities. The panel will include Anthony Cordova, Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development at California Community College; Marvin Martinez, Chancellor of Rancho Santiago Community College District; and David Shofstahl, Apprenticeship Coordinator at Mountain Gateway Community College.

[Register Here](#)

February 26-28, 2025

**National Career Pathways
Network Connect**

Location: Austin, TX



For over 30 years, the NCPN Connect Conference has been the premier event for strengthening the education-to-career pipeline. Center SMEs will present on "Building Student Awareness of Apprenticeship Career Pathways" to provide secondary and post-secondary educational leaders, administrators, and instructors with tools to link education to RA programs. Attendees will explore successful education-to-apprenticeship pathways, data showcasing RA benefits like job readiness, and expert insights on effective transitions to apprenticeship.

[Register Here](#)

March 16-19, 2025

Southeastern Employment and Training Association (SETA) 2025 Spring Conference

SETA

Location: Myrtle Beach, SC

The Center will present "The Workforce and Registered Apprenticeship Systems: How do We Connect the Two?" at the SETA 2025 Spring Conference. The March 17th session will provide an overview of the Center's work for the past three years to increase system alignment, including data-driven findings on the opportunity for local workforce boards to increase WIOA co-enrollment support for Registered Apprentices. The session will also provide training on the "Key Components of Workforce and RA Alignment Tool" to help boards and workforce system stakeholders more effectively engage in RA.

[Register Here](#)

March 30 - April 2, 2025

Coalition on Adult Basic Education 2025 National Conference

Location: Dallas, TX



As a national partner in the Center's work to accelerate education and apprenticeship system alignment, COABE has developed and disseminated Center TA materials and RA training opportunities since 2020. Join Center SMEs at COABE's annual conference to learn more about "Bridging the Gap: Empowering Adult Learners through Registered and Pre-Apprenticeship Programs."

[Register Here](#)



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