



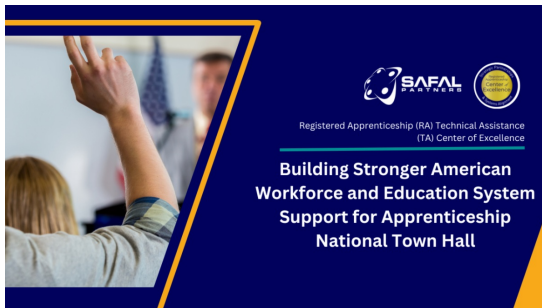
U.S. DOL Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Technical Assistance Center of Excellence Newsletter

July 2025 Edition

- **Center Resources, Events** – Center National Town Hall, New Center Report on WIOA Title I and Title II Partnerships, Empowering Adult Learners through RA, Promising RA Practices at Rural Community Colleges, SelectUSA Summit
- **Apprenticeship News** – New Executive Orders, Maryland's RAISE Act
- **Upcoming Events** – ACCE 2025, NAWDP BSR Academy, CWA Meeting of the Minds, FL Workforce Summit

Center Resources, Events

RA Insights and Recommendations from the Center



The Center hosted "Building Stronger American Workforce and Education System Support for Apprenticeship," a virtual National Town Hall on advancing alignment of America's apprenticeship, education, and workforce systems. This special event featured U.S. DOL Employment and Training Administration leaders, Megan Baird, the Acting Administrator from the Office of

Apprenticeship (OA), and Robin Fernkas, the Deputy Administrator from the Office of Workforce Investment (OWI).

OA and OWI leadership was joined by the Center lead, Safal Partners, and its five partners – the National Association of Workforce Professionals, Coalition on Adult Basic Education, National Disability Institute, Wireless Infrastructure Association, and FASTPORT – in sharing insights from the field, lessons learned from the Center's work over the past four years, and recommendations for future work. Watch the webinar alongside the presentation (links below) to hear leaders from DOL and the Center discuss aligning apprenticeship with the workforce and education systems nationwide.

[View Webinar](#)[Webinar PPT](#)

Expanding RA Through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I and Title II Partnerships

Safal Partners and the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) collaborated in

producing the Center's new [Expanding RA through the WIOA Title I and Title II Partnerships](#) report, outlining a strategic roadmap to expand RA through stronger alignment between WIOA Title I (Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs administered by DOL) and Title II (Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, or AEFLA) programs administered by ED). While capacity exists among WIOA service providers to design and deliver pre-apprenticeship and RA programs, much more can be done to leverage these programs' respective strengths for greater impact. This report offers five practical recommendations for practitioners to enhance collaboration, build pre-apprenticeship pipelines, and improve access to RA programs, especially for adults facing barriers to employment.



The report emphasizes Integrated Education and Training models, co-enrollment strategies, and industry engagement as key tools for increasing workforce and education leaders' alignment with RA. By working together, WIOA Title I and Title II partners can boost credential attainment, support employer needs, and connect more career seekers to family-sustaining careers through apprenticeship.

Empowering Adult Learners through RA

During COABE's 2025 National Conference, Center SMEs Melissa Schroeder, Workforce Director at Safal Partners, and Amber Gallup, Adult Education Director at New Mexico Higher Education Department, presented, [Bridging the Gap: Empowering Adult Learners through Registered and Pre-Apprenticeship Programs](#), to discuss the benefits of RA

alignment and potential tools to help more adult learners onto RA-based career pathway development such as mapping [Integrated Education and Training](#) programs to RA through pre-apprenticeship, engaging workforce partners, and leveraging WIOA Title I funding to support apprentice and increase likelihood of successful program completion.



Promising Practices in Advancing RA from a Rural Community College



Rural community colleges face unique challenges – and opportunities – in implementing RA programs. In this webinar, Safal Partners Workforce Director, Dr. Melissa Schroeder, hosted a discussion with David Shofstahl, Apprenticeship Coordinator and Workforce Program Manager for Skilled Trades at Mountain Gateway Community College (MGCC).

David has successfully navigated common hurdles to developing new RA programs for

employers across industries in rural areas. MGCC, the second smallest community college in Virginia, has utilized innovative approaches to overcome geographic, funding, and infrastructure barriers to apprenticeship adoption. View the webinar (link below) to hear David and Melissa discuss promising practices for rural community colleges in RA expansion.

[View Webinar](#)

[Webinar PPT](#)

Increasing New Industry Awareness of Workforce System Support for RA



The annual SelectUSA Investment Summit, hosted by the U.S. Department of Commerce, facilitates business investment by connecting companies considering U.S. expansion with thousands of investors, economic development organizations, and industry experts from all 50 states and U.S. territories.

Katie Adams, Safal Partners' Chief Delivery Officer, joined a panel of industry-focused apprenticeship organizations and DOL staff

(pictured, above) to educate potential industry investors on "[Growing Your Workforce in America: A U.S. Department of Labor Overview of the Workforce System](#)."

Adams highlighted workforce system resources and support available to employers in every community looking to start a new business or expand their current workforce in the U.S. More than 120 individuals attended the standing-room only session.

Apprenticeship News

Executive Orders

On April 23rd, the White House released two Executive Orders calling to expand RA in the U.S.

[Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future](#) directs the Secretaries of Education, Commerce, and Labor to submit a plan to expand RA with a new growth goal of more than 1 million new active apprentices, expand to new industries and occupations, and create stronger connections between RA programs and education systems.



[Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth](#) calls for creating industry-developed AI program standards that can be registered and scaled nationally, and encouraging state and local workforce boards and training providers to promote RA pathways for youth and other learners.

RAISE Act Expanding RA in Maryland

In April, Maryland Governor Wes Moore signed into law the [Registered Apprenticeship Investments for a Stronger Economy \(RAISE\) Act](#). This legislation represents a strategic



investment in family-sustaining careers for Marylanders, while equipping businesses with the skilled talent they need to thrive.

Key provisions of the RAISE Act include:

- The **Maryland Pay Per Apprentice Program** helps offset costs for employers hiring and training new apprentices, particularly supporting small businesses in adopting apprenticeship as a workforce strategy.
- Investments in **apprenticeship intermediaries**, connecting employers, training providers, and program sponsors to ease program launch and expansion.
- A codified **1:1 journey person-to-apprentice ratio** with flexibility in some occupations like IT, healthcare, and education.
- Creation of the **Maryland Office of Registered Apprenticeship Development (MORAD)** to support RA programs statewide.
- A new **advisory board** to guide MORAD's work and evaluate the investments.

Upcoming Events



July 22-25, 2025

**Association of Chamber of
Commerce Executives (ACCE)
Conference 2025
Location: Philadelphia, PA**

The Center will provide ACCE conference attendees – from the organization's membership of more than 9,000 leaders from 1,300 chambers of commerce – with our new "Registered Apprenticeship and Your Chamber: A Guide for Addressing Members' Workforce Needs through Registered Apprenticeship." The guide is intended to help chamber leadership and front-line staff more quickly and effectively engage in RA and support members in accessing tools and expertise to build their workforce using the RA model.

ACCE conference attendees can stop by our exhibit booth for 1:1, no-cost technical assistance from our onsite RA SMEs.

[Register Here](#)

August 25-27, 2025

**NAWDP Business Service
Representatives Academy
Location: Denver, CO**

NAWDP, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, and the Rocky Mountain Workforce Development Association are presenting a 3-day Academy to equip Business Services Representatives with critical tools, knowledge, and expertise. Center Senior SME, Melissa Aguilar-Southard, and Dun and Bradstreet's Senior Account Director, Bill Greene, will present an engaging and informative workshop on how RA programs can and should align with your business services strategy. Through interactive discussions and the presentation of data, participants will learn how to effectively embed RA expertise into their business services.

[Register Here](#)



September 2-5, 2025

CWA Meeting of the Minds
Location: Monterey, CA



Join the Center at CWA's annual Meeting of the Minds conference, where national and local leaders, workforce boards, policymakers, and business partners come together to advance workforce development as a key driver of economic progress.

The Center will present an overview and findings from its four years of work with CWA to advance workforce board and stakeholder engagement in integrated RA service delivery. We will present key findings from the state's work, insights from national workforce peers, and facilitate guided actionable planning for practical next steps.

[Register Here](#)

September 8-10, 2025

Florida Workforce Professional Development Summit
Location: Orlando, FL



The Florida Workforce Development Association's annual Workforce Professional Development Summit offers a range of workshops to support workforce staff at all levels and provide resources to advance workforce system alignment with WIOA. The Center looks forward to joining CareerSource SunCoast in presenting on "Registered Apprenticeship + Workforce Development Alignment = A Journey to Success."

The deadline to register for the Summit is Wednesday, August 27, 2025.

[Register Here](#)



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