



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Date: February 24, 2021

To: Representative Zach Fields

From: Patricia Zugg - *CTE Program Administrator*
Justin Ainsworth - *Assoc. Superintendent of Instruction, Technology & Career Ed*

Re: SUPPORT FOR APPRENTICESHIP BILL

Thank you for your efforts towards apprenticeship growth in Alaska. We welcome opportunities to support apprenticeship development across our CTE programs and would appreciate access to DOLWD support in these efforts inside our school systems.

Simply put, Career & Technical Education (CTE) works for students and adults. Apprenticeship is a pinnacle of work-based learning. It is a very successful and effective avenue for advanced entry into the workforce, with a seamless interweave of both contextual instruction and applied skills training.

Apprenticeship adds relevance to education and answers the question of "when will I ever use this". When focused and rigorous studies are embedded with skills and employability training; apprentices are immediately engaged in their futures, in lifelong learning, in financial security, and portable credentialing.

The partnership needed for successful apprenticeship are both the employer sponsor and the educator. We stand ready and excited to provide high quality career, technical and academic education aligned with apprenticeship agreements. We also stand ready to engage with the crucial employer sponsor. The employer sponsor ultimately congeals both partners into viable apprenticeships. Any ways that employer sponsors can be incentivized are greatly encouraged.

Affordability of postsecondary study is a barrier that apprenticeship naturally overcomes, it allows for apprentices to study and maintain a relevant income at the same time. A flow of consistent income allows apprentices to journey to mastery, to progress to a high wage - high demand career, while attending to life's simultaneous demands.

Further, we support this bill because it amplifies efforts and actions to match Alaskan labor market demand with training in Alaska. That will prove to be a great return on investment for Alaska!

Thank-you for all you do in support of apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship -or- school to apprenticeship, effective 21st Century CTE, workforce development, and for supporting varied postsecondary options for All Alaskans!