

Celebrating Pathways to Innovation and Success through Apprenticeships

Youth Apprenticeship Week (YAW), in its inaugural year, shines a spotlight on apprenticeships as a pathway for youth ages 16-24 to establish rewarding careers in industries like semiconductor manufacturing. Endorsed by the U.S. Department of Labor, YAW underscores apprenticeships' crucial role in offering key skills, stable jobs, and economic growth, especially in sectors like semiconductor and advanced manufacturing.

This week, we celebrate the success of Registered Apprenticeship Programs and address educational challenges facing today's youth. Apprenticeships present a valuable alternative, promising a head start in high-demand industries.

Bridging Education and Career Opportunities

The traditional path of higher education, while valuable, presents numerous challenges that apprenticeships effectively address. By contrasting these pathways, we illuminate how apprenticeships not only mitigate common issues such as high dropout rates and escalating debts but also enhance career readiness with immediate job placement and practical experience.

30% Drop Out & 40% Don't Graduate

More than 30% of college students drop out before graduating, with up to 40% of all undergraduates leaving higher education without a degree. First-generation and low-income students are particularly affected, with three-quarters of dropouts coming from these backgrounds.

258% Cost Increase for Public Colleges

Tuition costs at public four-year colleges have increased from \$4,160 to \$10,740 over a decade. 55% of public four-year college students graduate with debt.

\$1.75T in Student Loan Debt

Average Student Debt: Students are leaving college with an average debt of \$28,950, contributing to a total U.S. student loan debt of \$1.75 trillion.



Traditional College Education: A Challenging Landscape

High Dropout Rates

More than 30% of college students drop out before graduating, with up to 40% of all undergraduates leaving higher education without a degree.¹ First-generation and low-income students are particularly affected, with three-quarters of dropouts coming from these backgrounds.²

Extended Time to Graduation

Only 42% of students complete their degrees within four years. For many, it takes up to six years to graduate, significantly increasing their educational costs.³

Escalating Costs and Student Debt

Rising Tuition: Tuition costs at public four-year colleges have increased from \$4,160 to \$10,740 and from \$19,360 to \$38,070 at private nonprofit institutions over a decade.⁴

Average Student Debt: Students are leaving college with an average debt of \$28,950, contributing to a total U.S. student loan debt of \$1.75 trillion.⁵

Debt Prevalence: 55% of public and 57% of private nonprofit four-year college students graduate with debt.⁶

Cost-Effective Education

The average cost of trade school is significantly lower at \$21,000, compared to \$78,000 at public and \$166,000 at private colleges.⁷

Immediate Employment and Competitive Wages

Apprentices start earning from day one, providing an immediate return on their educational investment. Details on post-certificate salaries in Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) will highlight the competitive earning potential compared to traditional college graduates.

High Retention Rates

Apprenticeships boast high retention rates, with 94% of apprentices retaining employment after completing their programs.⁸

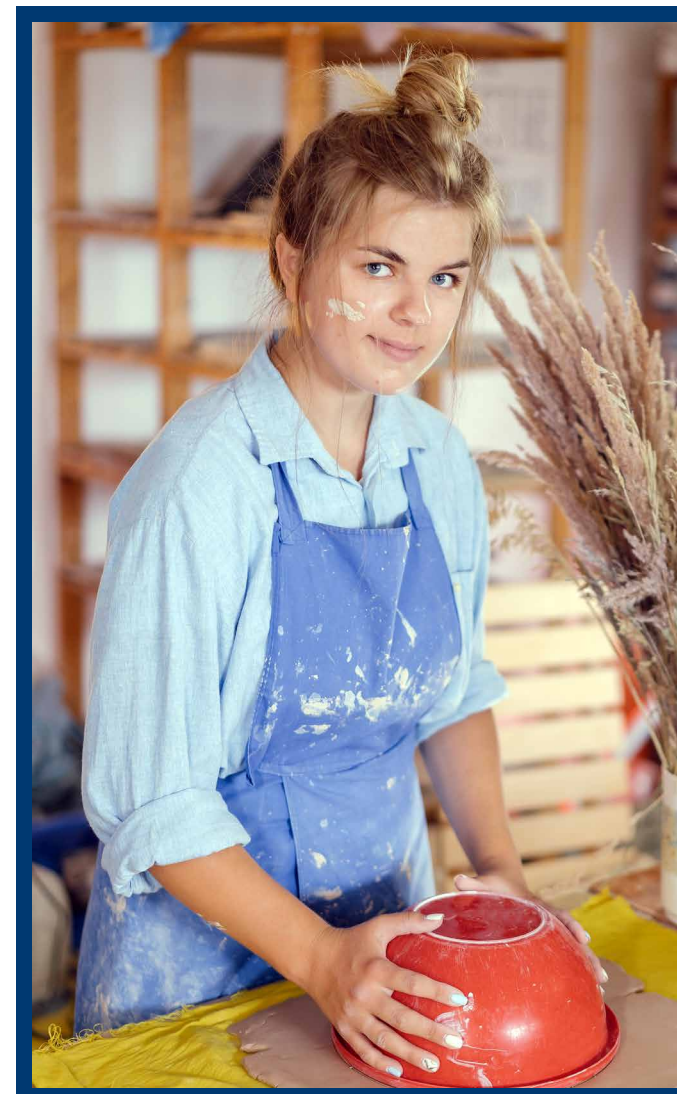
Nationwide Impact of Apprenticeships

Filling the Skills Gap

Apprenticeships are directly aligned with industry needs, providing practical skills that are in high demand in sectors like semiconductor and advanced manufacturing.

Promoting Diversity and Inclusion

By making apprenticeship programs accessible to underserved and underrepresented communities, apprenticeships help diversify industries that are critical to the nation's economy.



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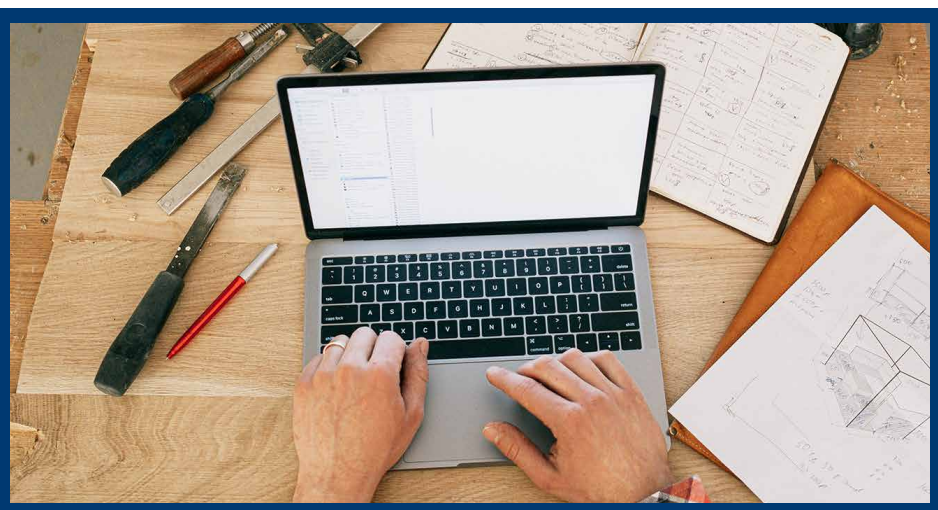
MOVING INDUSTRY FORWARD



About the National Institute for Innovation and Technology™

The National Institute for Innovation and Technology™ is a driver in shaping the future of workforce development across strategic industry sectors vital to U.S. national security and global competitiveness.

As a designated intermediary for the U.S. Department of Labor, the Institute is at the forefront of developing and expanding Registered Apprenticeship Programs, particularly in the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industries. Our mission is to eliminate barriers to innovation and to build a skilled, diverse talent pipeline that meets the needs of today's and tomorrow's high-tech industries.



By fostering partnerships between educators, industry leaders, and policymakers, the Institute ensures that apprenticeship programs are both robust and aligned with the latest industry standards, providing participants with both immediate job opportunities and long-term career pathways. Our comprehensive, integrated approach not only supports individual career advancement but also enhances the economic strength and technological prowess of the nation.

For more information about Institute initiatives and how you can contribute to building a sustainable workforce through Registered Apprenticeships, please visit www.niit.org.

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