

[Governor's Seal]

PROCLAMATION
by the
Governor of the State of Rhode Island

WHEREAS, 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of Rhode Island Apprenticeship Week, recognizing the vital impact of Registered Apprenticeship on Rhode Island employers, workers and families, and the state economy; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship is a proven, industry-led workforce model that combines paid on-the-job training with related technical instruction, enabling employers to develop a highly skilled workforce while workers earn wages and advance their careers; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship offers a substantial return on investment, returning \$27 to the local economy for every \$1 of public investment, and generating \$144.30 in benefits such as increased productivity and reduced turnover for every \$100 employers invest; and

WHEREAS, through Registered Apprenticeship, Rhode Island advances a systemic workforce strategy that connects residents to high-quality career pathways and raises wages for workers; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship provides an accessible path for Rhode Islanders too often excluded from economic opportunity to build essential skills and launch careers with family-sustaining wages, including those returning to the community from incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship is foundational to the Rhode to Prosperity 2030 goal of raising incomes for Rhode Islanders; in fact, people who complete a Registered Apprenticeship earn up to \$300,000 more over the course of their careers compared to peers who do not; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship provides portable postsecondary credentials to every apprentice who completes a Registered Apprenticeship program; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's institutions of higher education are partnering with state agencies, state partners, employers, and labor unions, to further align Registered Apprenticeship with postsecondary academic credit and degree attainment; and

WHEREAS, the RI 2030 Rhode to Prosperity plan recognizes that postsecondary certificate and degree attainment is vital to the broader goals of raising incomes and expanding home ownership; and

WHEREAS, Degree Apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship programs that offer credit and degree attainment create an accessible path for Rhode Islanders to earn postsecondary degrees through full-time employment, on-the-job training, and related instruction; and

WHEREAS, through Registered Apprenticeship programs, employers are building the highly skilled workforce Rhode Island needs to mitigate looming workforce shortages in key industries essential to the well-being of Rhode Islanders and to the health of the statewide economy,

including construction trades, healthcare, technology, early childhood and K-12 education (providers, teachers, principals) as well as green and blue economy sectors, and others; and WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island recognizes the vital role of Registered Apprenticeship and Degree Apprenticeship programs in establishing proven productivity and retention strategies, strengthening employer competitiveness, and building a more inclusive and prosperous economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim April 26 – May 2, 2026, as:

RHODE ISLAND APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Rhode Island to be affixed this **Day of April 2026.**

**{GREAT SEAL
OF THE STATE
OF RHODE ISLAND;}**

Governor of Rhode Island

ATTEST:

{Signature of Gregg Amore}

Secretary of State