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Department of
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JON S. PIERPONT
Executive Director

CASEY R. CAMERON
Deputy Director

GREG PARAS
Deputy Director

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BROOKE PORTER COLES
Public Information Officer
385-285-6423
brookeporter@utah.gov
Twitter: @jobsut

Utah apprenticeship programs change and grow in 2019

National Apprenticeship Week is Nov 11-17 and will include an Apprenticeship Job Fair

SALT LAKE CITY (Nov. 8, 2019) — Utah will celebrate the recent growth of the state's apprenticeship programs during National Apprenticeship Week from Nov. 11-17, including an Apprenticeship Job Fair on Nov. 13. In the 2019 legislative session, a Commissioner of Apprenticeship Programs was created, the first in the nation, and available industries for apprenticeships continue to expand.

"It's an exciting time for apprenticeships in our state," said Melisa Stark, the newly appointed Commissioner of Apprenticeship Programs. "We're experiencing a big movement in apprenticeships and I look forward to helping propel that change and momentum forward as we provide new opportunities for Utah job seekers."

Stark plans to focus on further diversifying apprenticeship, both the individuals who participate and the industries and programs available. In the past, apprenticeships have largely been found in the construction industry, however, opportunities are expanding to new areas like manufacturing, health care and IT.

"We want job seekers to understand that apprenticeships aren't a back-up plan or alternative pathway, but instead can be a valuable first choice for education and job growth as you learn and earn a wage at the same time," explained Stark.

Apprenticeship is a training model that combines on-the-job learning with related classroom instruction. Apprentices get paid to learn on the job and employers build a skilled workforce. Utah currently has over 3,500 apprentices with an average starting wage of \$18.86/ hour.

The Department of Workforce Services will host an Apprenticeship Job Fair to connect job seekers with over 30 apprenticeship employers and sponsors. The fair on Nov. 13 will be from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 1060 N. Flyer Way Salt Lake City.

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