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StartTodaySD.com

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Governor Noem Proclaims National Apprenticeship Week

PIERRE, S.D. – **Governor Kristi Noem** [proclaimed](#) Nov. 17-23, 2024, as [National Apprenticeship Week](#) in South Dakota. This week celebrates registered apprenticeships' important role in helping South Dakota citizens gain critical skills and expanding the state's workforce.

"Apprenticeships offer a fantastic opportunity to learn the skills of a new career while continuing to put food on the table for your family," said Governor Kristi Noem. "South Dakota has made tremendous progress expanding apprenticeships -- we've tripled the number of apprentices in the state in just the last year! And we're not slowing down now. We encourage businesses to take this opportunity to find the skilled talent they need to succeed."

Governor Noem announced \$7.9 million in additional funding for apprenticeships in April 2023. Since then, 273 businesses have inquired about building registered apprenticeship programs. In the last year, South Dakota added 378 apprentices and 44 new programs. Currently, another 50 new programs are in development.

A [celebration event](#) will be held in Rapid City on Tuesday, Nov. 19, to recognize the impact and importance of employers and sponsors who offer apprenticeship programs and apprentices who have completed an apprenticeship within the last 12 months.

"The event includes an apprentice graduation ceremony where we will announce this year's outstanding apprentice, mentor, and sponsor awards," said **state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman**. "I invite the business community to join us to celebrate these successes and learn how an apprenticeship can assist with workforce training needs."

The apprenticeship training model combines work-based learning with classroom instruction based on industry needs and standards. Many businesses have developed registered apprenticeship programs to train employees and keep South Dakotans living and working in the communities they love.

Visit StartTodaysSD.com to learn more about the celebration event and how to become an apprentice or business sponsor.