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Press Release

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New Data Indicates Strength of Registered Apprenticeship *Apprenticeship contributes to Alaska Hire, economic prosperity*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—The [March edition of Alaska Economic Trends](#) includes a detailed analysis of newly available data regarding Registered Apprenticeships. In Alaska, a growing number of employers are using Registered Apprenticeship to train workers in diverse occupations ranging from construction to health care to mining. Data reveals that Registered Apprenticeship raises workers' wages and contributes to Alaska Hire.

"Registered Apprenticeship is a vital tool to sustain our middle class and increase rates of Alaska Hire," said Labor Commissioner Heidi Drygas.

New Data on Registered Apprenticeships in Alaska

- 8,801 Alaskans participated in Registered Apprenticeship programs between 2004 and 2014.
- 87.7% of Registered Apprenticeship program graduates are employed in Alaska, and 93.5% of enrolled or graduated apprentices continue to live in Alaska.
- Enrolled apprentices earned \$52,818 in average wages, 35% more than the average wage of \$38,995. Graduates of Registered Apprenticeships earned even more, \$72,990 on average.
- 19% of apprentices are Alaska Native, compared to Alaska Natives' 14.8% share of the overall state population.

The Walker administration has strongly supported apprenticeship. Governor Walker recently issued [Administrative Order 278](#), establishing apprenticeship utilization standards for transportation, building, and resource development projects. Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Commissioner Marc Luiken and Commissioner Drygas [also launched](#) the "Earn and Learn" program to increase the participation of women and minorities in apprenticeship, in partnership with numerous community groups.

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