

**WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS
NAW PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is celebrating its 9th anniversary of raising awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeship plays as a proven and industry-driven training model and as a key strategy to improving job quality, and creating access to good-paying, family-sustaining jobs for all, starting with youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, Western Carolina University and the College of Education and Allied Professions recognizes the urgent need to prepare our students to address some of our nation's pressing workforce challenges such as rebuilding our country's infrastructure, addressing critical supply chain demands, supporting a clean energy workforce, modernizing our cybersecurity response, and responding to care economy issues; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering career seeking students affordable pathways to high-paying, good, quality jobs; and

WHEREAS, Western Carolina University and the College of Education and Allied Professions recognizes the role of Registered Apprenticeship in expanding opportunities in our workforce that are inclusive of individuals who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality, thus providing a path for all qualified individuals, including women, youth, people of color, rural and tribal communities, justice-involved individuals and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to America's industries; and

WHEREAS, Western Carolina University and the College of Education and Allied Professions recognizes the pivotal role educators, school counselors, and educational institutions serve in not only bringing awareness of Registered Apprenticeship opportunities to students and parents, but also serving as training providers, sponsors, and intermediaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Kim K. Winter and Dr. Charmion B. Rush, Dean and Associate Professor of Western Carolina and the College of Education and Allied Professions, call upon educators to recognize the value of Registered Apprenticeship, and to promote industry awareness and

expansion during the 9th anniversary of National Apprenticeship Week: November 13, 2023 through November 19, 2023.

IN SUPPORT,



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