

**LAKE COUNTY ELECTRICAL TRAINING CENTER
YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP WEEK PROCLAMATION**

MAY 5 – 11, 2024

WHEREAS, Youth Apprenticeship Week is celebrating its inaugural year of raising awareness of the vital role Youth Apprenticeships provide in creating opportunities by allowing youth to earn while they learn and preparing a pathway to good, quality jobs and well-paying careers in Merrillville, IN and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Electrical Training Center recognizes the urgent need to prepare and maintain an inclusive, diverse and highly skilled workforce that is capable of meeting the demands of the industry we serve and fortifying our economy; and

WHEREAS, Youth Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering career seekers pathways to good, quality jobs and well-paying careers and the ability to advance in those careers; and

WHEREAS, Lake County Electrical Training Center recognizes the role of Youth Apprenticeship in expanding opportunities in our workforce that are inclusive of young people who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality, thus providing a path for all qualified individuals, including women, people of color, rural communities, justice-involved individuals and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to America's industries; and

WHEREAS, Lake County Electrical Training Center recognizes that Youth Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model is recognized 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, while addressing 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew Valant, Training Director of the Lake County Electrical Training Center, call upon the electrical construction industry to recognize the value of Youth Apprenticeship, and to promote industry awareness and expansion during the 1st annual event of Youth Apprenticeship Week: May 5, 2024, through May 11, 2024.

IN SUPPORT,

Matthew Valant
Lake County Electrical Training Center