

Accelerate the Workforce

ACCELERATEAPPRENTICESHIPS.COM



ACCErate
APPRENTICESHIPS
Accelerate the Workforce

In celebration of National Apprenticeship Week (NAW), ACCErate helped sponsor the 2022 Virginia Apprenticeship Summit. This summit, hosted at the Portsmouth Campus of Tidewater Community College (TCC) by the Hampton Roads Workforce Council (HRWC) on November 17, 2022, brought together experts in the field of apprenticeship from the U.S. Department of Labor, ACCErate, NASA Langley, HRWC, Bay Electric, Oceaneering International, Inc., Hampton Roads Sanitation District, TCC, as well as other government and private organizations.

National Apprenticeship Week is a nationwide celebration that offers leaders in business, labor, education, and other partners an opportunity to demonstrate their support for apprenticeship and related programs. A proclamation was issued by Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin, recognizing November as Virginia Apprenticeship Month.



Barbara Murray, the Executive Director of the ACCErate Apprenticeship, a U.S. Department of Labor initiative sponsored by the American Association of Port Authorities, gave a presentation to the approximately forty participants about the benefits of using the apprenticeship model to help fill workforce needs. This talk helped participants have a deeper understanding about what apprenticeship is and what it is not, as well as debunking commonly held myths about apprenticeship. Whereas apprenticeship used to be limited to trade professions, it is now a beneficial career pathway for companies wanting to attract, train and retain employees in technician fields such as information technology, cybersecurity, and supervision.

After her presentation, Ms. Murray led a panel discussion that shared and celebrated team efforts and best practices that replicate the values of the Apprenticeship Model, and efforts to expand apprenticeship.

Other highlights from the event include a presentation by Mr. Whitney Lester, HRWC Sr. Talent Development Director, who kicked off the meeting with a regional update of the Hampton Roads Maritime Sector, hiring challenges, career opportunities and building a critical mass that leads change and increases awareness. Break-out sessions were held for team techniques in recruiting, retention, program establishment, diversity, equity and inclusion, grant and financial off sets, academic career pathway development, pre-apprenticeship opportunities and collaboration. Jacqueline Rondeau, HRWC Manager for Employer Engagement (Maritime), conducted the out brief from these sessions, with each group sharing the information, ideas, and improvement strategies discussed.



ACCErate would like to thank the Virginia Apprenticeship Ambassadors that joined us in sponsoring this event, as well as Christina Brooks, HRWC senior Director for NextGen and Special Projects for her work in developing the event agenda and coordinating speakers. Collaborations, such as this NAW event, are the reason that Virginia will successfully grow apprenticeship and create new opportunities for the workforce.

For more information about apprenticeship and ACCErate's programs, please contact our Executive Director, Barbara Murray at: (757) 401-8259 or brmurray.accelerate@aapa-ports.org. Or visit us at www.accelapp.org.