

## **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PORT AUTHORITIES (AAPA) NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) recognizes the urgent need to prepare and maintain a highly-skilled workforce that is capable of meeting the demands of the industry we serve; and

WHEREAS, 95 percent of all cargo entering the United States comes by ship and America's seaports and port-connected transportation, distribution and logistics supply chain serve as the backbone of our national economy; and

WHEREAS, seaport cargo activity accounts for more than a quarter of the U.S. GDP (\$5.4 trillion in economic value) and supports employment of more than 31 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, seaport employers and industry partners are facing the converging forces of an aging workforce, rapid technology advances, acceleration of rapid "on-demand" distribution of goods, and a decades-long lack of students entering the industry; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently faces a skills gap and overall talent shortage in the number of qualified workers to meet the workforce demand across America's critical seaport industry; and

WHEREAS, apprenticeship programs are uniquely capable of providing the academic and work-based learning required to develop in-demand, industry-validated skills in conjunction with employment; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor has recognized AAPA's leadership in workforce development through apprenticeship for seaports and the transportation, distribution and logistics sector and awarded it a \$6 million "Closing the Skills Gap" grant to increase awareness and adoption of apprenticeship as a proven model for structured, industry-aligned worker training; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chris Connor, President & CEO of AAPA call upon AAPA's seaport industry partners to recognize the value of apprenticeships, and to promote industry awareness and expansion during the sixth anniversary of:

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK  
November 8, 2020, through November 14, 2020

IN SUPPORT,



Christopher J. Connor  
President & CEO  
American Association of Port Authorities