

N E W S R E L E A S E

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DIR Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week November 12-18

Oakland—During [National Apprenticeship Week](#) November 12-18, the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and its Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) are celebrating California apprentices and highlighting [events](#) throughout the state to demonstrate the benefits of apprenticeship training programs for both employers and workers.

“California leads the nation with the highest number of registered apprentices in the United States, and we continue to break new ground with innovative apprenticeship programs,” said DAS Chief Eric Rood. “We continue to work with industry leaders, employers and workers to ensure that employers have a supply of skilled workers and that our workforce has the expertise needed for high-quality jobs in an evolving job market.”

Apprenticeship programs provide workers with experience through paid on-the-job training along with an education or instruction component to increase knowledge and skills. Among the programs DIR and DAS are highlighting are the following programs and apprenticeship graduations:

California Prison Industry Authority Apprenticeship Program

The California Prison Industry Authority, in partnership with DIR and the U.S. Department of Labor, is hosting a graduation ceremony today at Folsom State Prison for California inmates who have reached journey-level apprenticeship certification. These apprentices are now trained as metal fabricators and healthcare facilities maintenance custodians, and are the first people in California prisons to receive state-certified journey-level apprenticeships.

California Government Operations IT Apprenticeship Program

The [California Government Operations Agency](#) (GovOps) and SEIU Local 1000 partnered last year to create the first civil service information technology apprenticeship in the nation, and the first network-focused IT apprenticeship program with instruction at Sacramento City College and a grant from Mission College in Santa Clara. This joint apprenticeship committee was funded by the U.S. Department of Labor to develop and

register state and federal standards. The program has expanded to focus on client services and help desk functions. A total of 24 apprentices have registered over the past 18 months, and seven will graduate this Friday with five of the individuals already securing promotions into a civil service IT Associate classification.

Licensed Vocational Nurse to Registered Nurse Apprenticeship Program

California Correctional Health Care Services, San Joaquin Delta College and SEIU Local 1000 in 2016 launched the first civil service Licensed Vocational Nurse to Registered Nurse apprenticeship program in the United States. In the two years since the program began, 44 apprentices have registered, 13 apprentices have graduated and 10 are working as Registered Nurses. Program graduates experience a salary increase of approximately 40 percent.

The [Division of Apprenticeship Standards](#) creates opportunities for Californians to gain employable skills and provides employers with a highly skilled and experienced workforce. For more information on state registered apprenticeship programs and to search for available apprenticeship programs, visit <https://www.dir.ca.gov/das/das.html>.

Members of the press may contact Peter Melton or Lucas Brown at (510) 286-1161, and are encouraged to [subscribe to get email alerts](#) on DIR's press releases or other departmental updates.

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The [California Department of Industrial Relations](#), established in 1927, protects and improves the health, safety, and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. DIR is housed within the [Labor & Workforce Development Agency](#). For general inquiries, contact DIR's Call Center at 844-LABOR-DIR (844-522-6734) for help in locating the appropriate [division or program](#) in our department.