

APPRENTICESHIP

DAS Celebrates Their Superior Accomplishment Award Winners

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DAS Chief, Eric Rood (right) during DIR's on May 14 Town Hall recognition event honoring DAS team members for their superior accomplishments.

Although the pandemic forced workers at the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) to telework, it did not stop them from making a positive difference in the world of apprenticeship. On May 14, the Office of the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations

(DIR) held a virtual Town Hall meeting to recognize the hard work of its team members and honor them for their Superior Accomplishments, including Northern California team members from DAS.

The Superior Accomplishment Award went to five members of the DAS Apprenticeship and Workforce Innovation (AWI) unit: Adriana Salmoran, Helen Bui, Laura Thompson, Linda Mount and Tsegay Arefaine. This unit consults with employers to create a skilled workforce with viable career pathways to increase productivity and strengthen California's economy. During a time of unusual difficulties and obstacles, the regional NorCal AWI Unit stepped up to develop and service registered apprenticeship programs to cover all of California.

The team's accomplishments in 2020 include a Cybersecurity Convening. The unit designed, produced and hosted a large scale convening in coordination with the Governor's Cybersecurity Taskforce, bringing together industry, government, academia and workforce development stakeholders. Guest speakers included then California Labor Secretary Julie Su, who discussed how to connect cybersecurity apprenticeships

from high schools as well as four-year universities such as California State University San Bernardino, Cal Poly Pomona and other institutions from across the state. The team also developed partnerships with Fortune 500 companies to create innovative apprenticeship programs. The companies include CVS, Sony, IBM, Lockheed Martin and Sutter Health.

Other contributions to the division include Linda Mount developing the California Registered Nurse Specialty Apprenticeship Program, a first of its kind in the state sponsored by HealthImpact, a regional apprentice program conducted in partnership with the Hospital Association of Southern California. This apprenticeship program is responsible for taking existing registered nurses and training them for highly specialized roles in both ambulatory care and perioperative occupations, which has offered an innovative and novel approach to solving widespread specialty nursing workforce shortages through an efficient, regional program. These Specialty RN roles also help to assist our frontline workers in their fight against COVID and other related diseases.

Helen Bui and Tsegay Arefaine developed the War Room Apprenticeship Program (WRAP), an interactive map of California connecting all the players in apprenticeship focusing on information technology and cybersecurity. The tool breaks down the state by county and provides relevant data points. Adriana Salmora developed a project tracker to streamline and better tracks programs and workloads for the NorCal AWI staff,



Individually, each member also participates and provides advisory to the Minimum Industry Training Criteria for the Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship.

“Each awardee is doing a great job, but when you put them together, the synergy that came together was amazing,” said DAS Chief Eric Rood. “I want to thank each award winner and let them know that we really appreciate you”.