APPRENTICESHIP

DAS and LWDA Host Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Consortium

This May, the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) and the Labor & Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) launched a first-of-its-kind public/private cybersecurity apprenticeship consortium in the Inland Empire. The initiative will help the region address the

significant challenges it faces confronting a 56% vacancy rate of IT/cybersecurity roles in various industries. Apprenticeships allow employers to secure a highly skilled workforce with well-paying, high-quality jobs.

The consortium came together after eight months of in-depth engagement by DAS team members to bring together stakeholders from across the Inland Empire region, including employers, academic institutions, apprenticeship intermediaries and community-based organizations to form a group with expertise in the region. There were over 300 participants including public employers like the County of Riverside and private employers in information technology, health care and more. DAS and LWDA organized the event, which followed a large-scale Cybersecurity Convening last September conceptualized and developed by DAS and the Governor's Cybersecurity Taskforce Education Subcommittee to expand apprenticeships across the state.

Labor Secretary Julie Su speaking at the Inland Empire Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Consortium held online.

The May event included a message from Governor Newsom, who recognized DAS' work to bring together stakeholders in the region, and a conversation between Labor Secretary Su and various leaders from industry and academia. Secretary Su stated that the racial, gender and regional inequities that existed before the pandemic, and were made worse by it, have to be addressed.

"This important initiative is one way to address those inequities head-on. This is

about community, good jobs and improving lives. We believe this regional apprenticeship initiative is a model that can be replicated in regions across our state."

Secretary Su also mentioned this effort lays the foundation for career pathways with high demand IT cybersecurity roles and supports equity and inclusion while strengthening alliances and workforce systems.

DAS will ensure the consortium continues to meet to develop a robust apprenticeship framework for the region. You can view the meeting on YouTube: https://youtu.be/lKFn5v-td3k?t=1