State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State supports initiatives that strengthen the foundation upon which women can learn, grow, and achieve their full potential in the workforce, and apprenticeship is an effective approach to guiding women of diverse backgrounds and abilities on the path toward gainful employment; and

Whereas, throughout history, apprenticeship has been a successful way to teach and guide highly skilled workers, and in today's society, a growing number of apprenticeship programs are helping women achieve middle-class status; and

Whereas, at the same time, apprenticeship is a proven strategy for companies to recruit and retain skilled workers, and women apprentices are helping businesses increase productivity and profitability by filling labor shortages and ensuring the availability of employees who are trained to succeed; and

Whereas, women have historically represented a small number of apprenticeship opportunities in meaningful careers or in jobs that pay wages sufficient for supporting a family; currently, women occupy only 10% percent of all apprenticeships, and less than 3% of construction trades jobs nationally; and

Whereas, economic equality for all New Yorkers is measured not only by protection from discrimination, but also by equal and fair access to quality job opportunities; apprenticeship offers a critical pathway for women to participate fully and equally in New York's growing economy; and

Whereas, New York State recognizes the need for a diverse, skilled workforce to compete with new and emerging industries and occupations in today's global economy; companies can diversify their workforce, improve productivity and profitability, standardize training, and reduce turnover by increasing apprenticeship opportunities for women; and

Whereas, currently, New York State has nearly 12% active women apprenticeships including 6.5% in construction; and in 2014, of all newly enrolled apprentices in the construction trades, 6.7% were women, and in other trades such as manufacturing, 31.7% were women; the apprenticeship experience benefits women workers by providing them with a transferable credential that is backed by industry-recognized on-the-job training and related classroom instruction; and

Whereas, New York State places a priority on the inclusion of women in apprenticeship programs and today's observance provides an opportunity to acknowledge the skills, dedication, and leadership of many women who improve our state and nation through their contributions in every sector of the workforce; we are committed to building a more fair and just society by further breaking gender barriers and eliminating the glass ceiling through our support for women who seek to expand their career options through the positive experience and employment opportunities apprenticeship offers;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, hereby proclaim November 5, 2015 as

WOMEN IN APPRENTICESHIP DAY

in the Empire State.

STATE OF NEW YORK · EXECUTIVE PRIVY SEAL · EXCELSIOR

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany on this fourth day of November in the year two thousand fifteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor