



NASWA's Registered Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning (RA-WBL) Group

The Registered Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning (RA-WBL) Group met virtually on June 23rd with over 50 people in attendance representing more than 30 states.

Led by Co-Chairs Courtney Arbour (TX) and Steve Playl (TN), the RA-WBL Group, previously known as the Apprenticeship Affinity Group, provides state workforce directors and apprenticeship leads a unique forum to coordinate alignment efforts, share best practices, inform and respond to federal policies, and stay up to date on emerging policies and research within the apprenticeship and work-based learning ecosystem.

Attendees were excited to hear from Joshua Johnson, Director of Jobs for the Future's National Innovation Hub for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility in Registered Apprenticeship, one of four Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence established by the U.S. Department of Labor. Mr. Johnson shared the vision and mission of the National Innovation Hub and provided an overview of the services they offer, which focus on advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility across apprenticeship programs. Michael Qualter, from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship also joined to provide a brief presentation on recent federal guidance and funding opportunities. The meeting concluded with a state roundtable in which attendees shared recent apprenticeship-related initiatives and challenges.

Additional RA-WBL Group meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, September 6th (3:00pm-4:00pm) and Tuesday, October 25th (1:00pm-3:30pm).

For more information about the RA-WBL Group or to add an individual to the Group's distribution list, please contact Ben Mays at bmays@naswa.org and Zoe Vaughan at zvaughan@naswa.org.