

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Invest in skills, too

The Trump administration pledges to reshape federal workforce development strategy. Success will come not from simply creating jobs, but ensuring that workers have the skills to thrive, today and tomorrow.

The construction industry faces an historic shortage of 439,000 craft professionals. That's why scaling proven training pipelines is critical. Registered apprenticeships remain the most effective "earn while you learn" model, providing its Florida participants with skills, experience, and the opportunity to graduate debt-free.

A modern workforce strategy must embrace craft training, rapid upskilling and targeted project instruction. These pathways don't create jobs; they prepare workers to step into waiting careers.

The ABC Institute, Florida's largest apprenticeship college, leads this effort with nearly 1,000 apprentices enrolled statewide. Its scalable and flexible models show how workforce gaps can be closed while expanding opportunity.

Real workforce transformation requires flexibility, multiple training options and a break from one-size-fits-all thinking. As we observe Labor Day, let's remember that true progress comes from investing in skills, not just jobs.

— *Peter Dyga, Coconut Creek*

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