

The Apprenticeship Summit

The Apprenticeship Summit was recently held in Hershey with more than 600 workforce development partners attending to learn the latest developments about apprenticeship in Pennsylvania. In addition to four rounds of breakout sessions, attendees heard from Governor Tom Wolf, national experts, and employers as they presented the benefits and challenges of apprenticeship.

One highlight of the Summit was the panel discussion featuring members of the Executive Committee of the Keystone Economic Development and Workforce Command Center. The panelists discussed their work with the Command Center, some of the key initiatives of the Command Center, and how this work relates to apprenticeship. At one point in the discussion, panel moderator Eileen Cipriani, Deputy Secretary of Workforce Development, asked the panelists to individually identify what they saw as the biggest barrier to workforce development. Panelists identified the following in their remarks:

- The skills gap;
- Best use of money for workforce development;
- Addressing immediate needs versus needs down the road;
- Hesitation of workforce development to 'think big';
- Getting information out about best practices;
- Childcare for employees;
- Awareness of careers, and
- Wages.

To learn more about apprenticeships, review the [Exploring Apprenticeships](#) resource and take time to meet with your PA CareerLink® partners.