

## FLORIDA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION NAW PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Apprenticeship Week is celebrating its 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of raising awareness of the vital role Registered Apprenticeships provide in creating opportunities by allowing apprentices to earn while they learn and preparing a pathway to good, quality jobs and well-paying careers in Florida and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Rural Water Association recognizes the urgent need to prepare and maintain an inclusive, diverse and highly-skilled workforce that is capable of meeting the demands of the industry we serve and fortifying our economy; and

WHEREAS, Registered Apprenticeship programs enable employers to develop and train their future workforce while offering career seekers pathways to good, quality jobs and well paying careers; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Rural Water Association recognizes the role of Registered Apprenticeship in expanding opportunities in our workforce that are inclusive of individuals who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality, thus providing a path for all qualified individuals, including women, youth, people of color, rural communities, justice-involved individuals and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to America's industries; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Rural Water Association recognizes that Registered Apprenticeship, a proven and industry-driven training model is recognized as a key strategy to improving job quality, and creating access to good-paying, family-sustaining jobs for all, starting with youth and young adults, while addressing some of our nation's pressing workforce challenges such as rebuilding our country's infrastructure, addressing critical supply chain demands, supporting a clean energy workforce, modernizing our cybersecurity response, and responding to care economy issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tracie Priest, Apprenticeship Program Coordinator of the Florida Rural Water Association, call upon all of Florida's Water and Wastewater Utility Systems to recognize the value of Registered Apprenticeship, and to promote industry awareness and expansion during the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Apprenticeship Week: November 13 through November 19, 2023.

IN SUPPORT,



Tracie Priest, Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, Florida Rural Water Association

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<https://www.frwa.net/apprenticeship-program>