

## SECTOR STRATEGIES

Vibrant sector strategies, committed partnerships and inspired community leadership are helping to drive the growth of targeted industries and our regional economy. The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to be a part of the Lane County Sector Strategies team. Each quarter, we'll learn from the partners moving this work forward.



# APPRENTI CULTIVATES TECH TALENT

Article by ALLISON WEATHERLY || Photo by ATHENA DELENE

*Lane Workforce Partnership and the Technology Association of Oregon have joined forces to bring a registered tech apprenticeship program to Lane County.*



A new registered apprenticeship program, Apprenti, launched in Lane County earlier this year. Since then, the program has placed apprentices with three local employers: XS Media, City of Eugene, and Homes for Good.

Apprenti is a registered apprenticeship in the field of IT. In Lane County, the program is powered by the Technology Association of Oregon and Lane Workforce Partnership. Once accepted into the Apprenti program, apprentices receive three to 22 weeks of technical training, followed by one year of full-time, paid, on-the-job training with a local company.

Apprenti is for any employer recruiting for occupations, such as network security administrator, IT support professional or web developer. During the paid, on-the-job training, employers pay a discounted wage to offset the additional training provided to the apprentice by the employer.

Candidates are pre-screened by Apprenti staff before being sent to employers for interviews. To be considered for the program, candidates must complete a rigorous online assessment that measures math, logic and emotional quotient. High-scoring candidates are placed on a ranked list. There are currently 305 highly motivated individuals on the ranked list for Lane County. These individuals are eager for an alternative pathway to a career in tech. Registered apprenticeship does just that. It combines classroom and on-the-job training, honing the skills needed for a specific occupation.

Stephen Parac of XS Media was intrigued at the opportunity. Looking for a motivated Network Security Administrator, he turned to Apprenti and found it to be very worthwhile.

“The team found two incredible candidates for us to choose from,” Parac says. “Kyle did fabulous in the training at LCC and started attending some company events before he started on the job. He’s been working full time for six weeks, and we couldn’t be happier.”

Find out more about Apprenti at <http://bit.ly/2yCzF2u>



The Lane County Sector Strategy Team (LCSST) is a team of professionals representing workforce development, economic development, business and education. The LCSST works collectively, in an effort to better support critical industries in Lane County. We believe we can achieve more and have a greater impact in our community by working together.

For more, visit: [bit.ly/2PhYkpu](http://bit.ly/2PhYkpu)