



TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION
OF OREGON

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Tech apprenticeship program launches in Lane County

Lane Workforce Partnership (LWP) and the Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) have joined forces to bring a registered tech apprenticeship program to Lane County. The program, called [Apprenti™](#), started last year in the state of Washington.

Oregon will be the second state in the nation to adopt this innovative registered apprenticeship program. The project is in partnership with the Oregon Employment Department and is funded as part of a 3 million dollar federal investment in Oregon to expand registered apprenticeship into the IT and manufacturing industries.

The investment in this federally recognized apprenticeship program in the field of IT will help to fill the talent gap currently facing the rapidly growing tech sector in Lane County. According to the Oregon Employment Department, there are 443 tech firms in Lane County and employment in these firms is expected to grow by 28 percent over the next ten years.

“Through our work with the Lane County Sector Strategy Team and the Technology Association of Oregon, we have been hearing from local tech companies that there is an immediate need to attract individuals to careers in the tech industry,” said Jessica McCormick, Workforce Project Manager with Lane Workforce Partnership. “We see a registered apprenticeship program in tech as a way to complement the talent currently coming out of the University of Oregon and Lane Community College while quickly providing our local employers with a quality workforce.” Apprenti offers an opportunity for individuals to skill up and enter the tech industry faster than the traditional two- or four-year degree pathway.

Apprenti creates an onramp into the field of IT for a diverse workforce, by focusing on attracting underrepresented groups like women, veterans, and minorities. The spirit of greater Eugene’s tech community is inclusive. “We are thrilled to launch the Apprenti

program to provide an opportunity for everyone in the Greater Eugene area to take a leap into a tech career. This is a tremendous opportunity for our community to continue paving the way in broadening our talent pool that leads to rewarding, valuable careers in the local tech industry,” said Allison Weatherly, TAO Events Manager.

Once accepted into the Apprenti program, apprentices receive between 14-20 weeks of certified technical training followed by one year of full-time, paid, on-the-job training with a local tech company. As a hybrid competency and time-based program, those with a strong determination to complete the rigorous training are encouraged to apply. To be considered for the program, applicants must be 18 or over, have a high school diploma or equivalent and be eligible to work in the U.S. Interested candidates can apply to become an apprentice by visiting <https://apprenticareers.org>.

LWP and TAO plan to place 45 apprentices with local companies over the next three years in occupations like web developer, software developer, network security administrator, Windows system administrator, Linux system administrator, cloud support specialist, data center technician and IT support professional. The 14-20 weeks of training will be offered at no cost to the apprentice or the employer, however due to the intensity of the training apprentices are expected not to work during the certified technical training portion of the apprenticeship.

Employers interested in learning more about hiring an apprentice can contact Allison Weatherly at allison.weatherly@techoregon.org.

LWP and TAO are hosting a community partner presentation on December 8 at WorkSource Lane (2510 Oakmont Way Eugene) in the Willamette Room. This presentation is intended to provide community partners with information and tools to help refer candidates to the Apprenti program. Presentations will be held from 1:00 to 2:30 pm and 3:00 to 4:30 pm. For more information on the community partner presentation, contact Jessica McCormick at jessica@laneworkforce.org.

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