

## APPRENTICESHIP ILLINOIS 2024 EMPLOYER EVENTS – PARTNER BRIEFING

### **EMPLOYER FOCUS GROUPS (virtual)**

Focus Groups will provide a virtual collaborative listening environment for industry leaders and employers to voice their feedback on the Illinois workforce system, its ongoing programs, and future policy efforts. These guided sessions will be a space for open dialogue on hiring difficulties, best practices, and the challenges and opportunities facing businesses. Two identical sessions will take place on September 9<sup>th</sup>: one from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, and one from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM via Zoom. Due to the space limits, the registration for this time may close and individuals will be added to a wait list for future events. Contact information from those who expressed interest after capacity has been met will be saved for potential future focus groups. Please note:

- There is a maximum capacity of 40 attendees for this event.
  - This focus group is for employers only - No more than two attendees from the same company please
  - Attendance at this event is confirmed when you receive the Zoom link.
  - Messaging will be sent out to those not selected once capacity is met.
- **September 9, 2024, 11:00am-12:30pm**
    - Registration Link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IWIB\\_FocusGroup\\_1\\_2024](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IWIB_FocusGroup_1_2024)
  - **September 9, 2024, 3:00-4:30pm**
    - Registration Link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IWIB\\_FocusGroup\\_2\\_2024](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IWIB_FocusGroup_2_2024)

### **EMPLOYER ROUNDTABLES**

The employer roundtables will connect with employers, highlight the value of apprenticeship, and help break down real and perceived barriers to starting new apprenticeship programs in their region. The event will have a **business-to-business** approach focus where business partners with successful apprenticeship programs will speak on the return on investment in Registered Apprenticeships (RA) as well as provide employers with resources and connections to get started.

- **October 1, 10am-12:00pm, Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC)**, 2500 Carlyle Ave, Belleville, IL
  - Featured Partner: West Star Aviation, SWIC, LWIA 22/24
  - Registration Link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer\\_Roundtable\\_Belleville\\_24](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer_Roundtable_Belleville_24)
- **October 9, 10am-12:00pm, DuPage County, TBD**
  - Choose DuPage, College of DuPage, LWIA 6
  - Registration Link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer\\_Rountable\\_DuPage\\_24](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer_Rountable_DuPage_24)
- **October 10, 10am-12:00pm, Illinois Central College (ICC)**, 5407 N. University Peoria, IL 61635, Arbor Hall – A112B
  - Peoria Economic Development Commission, ICC, LWIA 15
  - Registration Link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer\\_Roundtable\\_Peoria\\_24](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer_Roundtable_Peoria_24)

### **NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK (November 17-24, 2024)**

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is a nationwide celebration that brings together business and labor leaders, career seekers, educational institutions, and critical partners to demonstrate their support for apprenticeships. Apprenticeship Illinois will celebrate Apprenticeship Week 2024 by hosting a range of in-person and virtual events and amplifying local and regional celebrations of apprenticeships. This week allows apprenticeship sponsors across the state to showcase programs, facilities, and apprentices in their community. It provides employers and future apprentices who are curious about apprenticeships with a way to learn about the benefits that come from learning and earning. Please visit [www.apprenticeshipillinois.com](http://www.apprenticeshipillinois.com) for more information and a listing of events including:

- Regional Apprenticeship Symposiums
- Local Events Apprenticeship Program Launches, Signings and Open Houses
- Announcement of 2024-25 Illinois Apprenticeship Ambassadors



## WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNER RESOURCES AND EVENTS

### APPRENTICESHIP ILLINOIS.COM

<https://www.illinoisworknet.com/ApprenticeshipIL/Pages/WorkforcePartners.aspx>

### LUNCH AND LEARN WEBINARS

The Apprenticeship Expansion webinar series includes presentations from workforce partners from different state agencies and apprenticeship stakeholders to highlight best practices for collaboration on the development of registered apprenticeship programs. In combining these guest webinars with a core curriculum that emphasizes expediency, equity, creativity, and thoughtful partnership for apprenticeship outreach and registration, the Apprenticeship Illinois team aims to cultivate a cohort of apprenticeship professionals.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Webinar Topic</u>
July 23, 2024	<a href="#"><i>Apprenticeship Fundamentals (PPT) - Recorded</i></a>
July 30, 2024	<a href="#"><i>Best Practices for Employer Recruitment (PPT) - Recorded</i></a>
August 13, 2024	<a href="#">Engaging with IBST Stakeholders for Successful Partnerships</a>
August 20, 2024	<a href="#">Utilizing Data for Effective Business Outreach</a>
August 27, 2024	<a href="#">Guidance for Collaborating with DOL Office of Apprenticeship</a>
September 10, 2024	<a href="#">Working with High-Impact Intermediaries and Community Colleges</a>
September 17, 2024	<a href="#">Collaborating with IDHS-DRS on RAP Outreach and Development</a>
October 1, 2024	<a href="#">Apprenticeship, CTE, and Secondary Education</a>
October 8, 2024	<a href="#">Energize Apprenticeships! CEJA and RAPs</a>
October 15, 2024	<a href="#">Thinking Local: Working with Chambers and EDC's</a>
October 22, 2024	<a href="#">Educating Educators: Case Study of Educator Pre-Apprenticeship to Apprenticeship Model</a>
November 12, 2024	<a href="#">National Apprenticeship Week: Showcasing successful programs developed from grants</a>
December 10, 2024	<a href="#">Yearly Health Check-Up: Reflections and Advice from Illinois Healthcare Apprenticeships</a>

### APPRENTICESHIP BOOTCAMP

**Overview:** The apprenticeship bootcamp is an intensive two-day experiential learning conference designed to train public workforce stakeholders in concepts relating to registered apprenticeship and business service team integration. Participants will hear from subject matter experts and apply their knowledge directly in a series of in-depth strategy sessions designed to strengthen local collaboration and align statewide apprenticeship outreach and development efforts.

**Registration:** [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APIL\\_Bootcamp\\_Registration\\_24](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APIL_Bootcamp_Registration_24)

**Who:** Integrated Business Service Team Members (Title I-IV Partners, Economic Development Orgs, Community Colleges, K-12 Education, DCEO RED Team, Municipalities)

**When:** September 23<sup>rd</sup> (9:00am-5:00pm) & September 24<sup>th</sup> (9:00am-3:00pm)

**Where:** Location TBD (Chicagoland South or West)

**The Illinois Workforce Innovation Board invites you to join our Business Focus Groups & Roundtables!**  
Your insights are crucial to shaping and implementing effective workforce development solutions!

#### **WHY PARTICIPATE?**

- Tackle Skills Gaps: Share your experiences with finding and retaining skilled candidates.
- Influence Workforce Policies: Provide input that will guide policy changes to support your talent sourcing and development efforts.
- Network with Peers: Connect with other business leaders facing similar challenges and exchange best practices.
- Improve ROI: Learn ways other employers are increasing their bottom line through hiring, training and retention strategies.

#### **KEY DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

- Sourcing Qualified Candidates: Discuss difficulties in finding candidates with the right skills and qualifications.
- Training and Upskilling: Explore effective training programs and upskilling initiatives that can bridge the skills gap.
- Retention Strategies: Share strategies for retaining skilled workers in a competitive market.
- Partnerships with Educational Institutions: Identify opportunities for collaboration with schools and training centers.
- Innovative Workforce Solutions: Discover and contribute to innovative approaches to workforce development.

#### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- Business Owners
- Human Resources Professionals
- Industry Leaders
- Hiring Managers
- Training and Development Coordinators

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS REGISTRATION LINKS**

- *Focus Group (Virtual):* September 9, 2024 11:00 AM – 12:30PM
  - Register at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IWIB\\_FocusGroup\\_1\\_2024](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IWIB_FocusGroup_1_2024)
- *Focus Group (Virtual):* September 9, 2024 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
  - Register at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IWIB\\_FocusGroup\\_2\\_2024](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IWIB_FocusGroup_2_2024)
- *Southern IL Employer Roundtable (Belleville):* October 1, 10am-12:00pm,
  - Register at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer\\_Roundtable\\_Belleville\\_24](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer_Roundtable_Belleville_24)
- *Northern IL Employer Roundtable (DuPage County):* October 9, 10am-12:00pm
  - Register at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer\\_Rountable\\_DuPage\\_24](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer_Rountable_DuPage_24)
- *Central IL Employer Roundtable (East Peoria):* October 10, 10am-12:00pm
  - Register at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer\\_Roundtable\\_Peoria\\_24](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Employer_Roundtable_Peoria_24)

#### **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

- RSVP: Register for the event(s) using the links provided above
- Spread the Word: Share this flyer with other business leaders in your network.
- Come ready to share your insights; we value your input and look forward to your participation!

**EVENTS BREAKDOWN:**

Focus Groups will provide a virtual collaborative listening environment for industry leaders and employers to voice their feedback on the Illinois workforce system, its ongoing programs, and future policy efforts. These guided sessions will be a space for open dialogue on hiring difficulties, best practices, and the challenges and opportunities facing businesses.

Employer Roundtables will connect with employers, highlight the value of work-based learning opportunities, and break down real and perceived barriers involved in starting registered apprenticeship programs. These regional, business-to-business events will showcase business partners with successful apprenticeship programs who will discuss the return on investment in Registered Apprenticeships (RA) as well as providing employers with local resources and connections to get started.

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is a nationwide celebration that brings together business and labor leaders, career seekers, educational institutions, and critical partners to demonstrate their support for apprenticeships. Apprenticeship Illinois will celebrate Apprenticeship Week 2024 this November 17-24<sup>th</sup> by hosting a range of in-person and virtual events and amplifying local and regional celebrations of apprenticeships. This week allows apprenticeship sponsors across the state to showcase programs, facilities, and apprentices in their community. It provides employers and future apprentices who are curious about apprenticeships with a way to learn about the benefits that come from learning and earning. The National Apprenticeship Week events will be posted on the apprenticeship Illinois website.

Please visit [www.apprenticeshipillinois.com](http://www.apprenticeshipillinois.com) for more information and a listing of events including:

- Regional Apprenticeship Symposiums
- Local Events Apprenticeship Program Launches and Signings
- Announcement of 2024-25 Illinois Apprenticeship Ambassadors
- Career Fairs and Open Houses