

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Dear Washington Employer:

I encourage you to support the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee's (AJAC) Youth Apprenticeship Program by sponsoring a Production Technician Youth Apprentice at your company this year. We know that too few opportunities exist for today's young adults to participate in meaningful real-world experience.

Youth Apprenticeship is a promising strategy for growing youth employment in Washington State. It has been pioneered in a number of other states, including Wisconsin, Kentucky, and Oregon, to name just a few. In these states, thousands of high school students are engaging in structured on-the-job training across a number of key industries.

In 2017, the AJAC is launching the state's first ever Youth Apprenticeship Program in manufacturing. As a sponsoring employer of Youth Apprenticeship, you have the opportunity to hire talented young adults from your local community into registered apprenticeship.

Your investment will allow high school juniors and seniors to develop real-world skills, earn competitive wages, and achieve career success that will literally change their lives. In return, youth apprenticeship will help stimulate business growth and recruit new employees into your company – as well as help tackle skill shortages throughout the industry.

In support of this innovative new program, I have worked with Washington State's Department of Labor and Industries to create an apprenticeship pathway for youth that is easy for employers to navigate. This includes clear guidance on the policies governing youth employment, including the specific tasks and job duties that minors are eligible to perform on the job. Our goal is to make this a seamless process contributing to thousands of new hires each year.

Please take the time to review the enclosed materials and meet with an AJAC representative to launch the AJAC's Youth Apprenticeship Program at your company. I endorse the Youth Apprenticeship model, and I hope you will too.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee
Governor

Enclosures

