



## **NATIONAL NETWORK OFFERS SOLUTIONS TO MODERNIZE FEDERAL REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

*Business Leaders Provide Blueprint for Needed Reforms in New Report*

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**Washington, D.C.**—November 8, 2017—The [National Network of Business and Industry Associations](#) (National Network) today released a new report outlining ways the federal government could improve its support for apprenticeships in the modern economy.

[Registered Apprenticeship Challenges and Solutions](#) identifies challenges with the current system *and* offers specific solutions that would encourage employer involvement in this proven model for career preparation.

“Many National Network members have adopted apprenticeships as a valuable tool to prepare job candidates for the best jobs, and we stand ready to work with federal and state officials to modernize the Registered Apprenticeship Program to work for today’s economy,” said Montez King, Executive Director of the National Institute for Metalworking Skills, who is also a member of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion. “Together, we can build clear pathways for Americans to learn and work in meaningful careers and ensure employers have a skilled workforce focused on performance, growth and opportunity.”

Today, too many employers in a wide range of business sectors find the Registered Apprenticeship Program overly bureaucratic, cumbersome and costly. As a result, employers are calling for a new version of apprenticeship that is competency-based – related directly to nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials and updated to the realities of learning and work.

“Business leaders understand the tremendous potential of apprenticeship models to improve economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans by better connecting people with the jobs of today and tomorrow,” said Dane Linn, Vice President, Business Roundtable. “But to embrace the full potential of the

apprenticeship model, the federal government has a role to play in breaking down barriers to employer participation. The solutions outlined in this new report are an invaluable guide for federal and state officials who are working to address the skills gap and generate economic growth.”

Among the recommendations included in the report are:

- ✓ **Work with the business community to update and simplify regulations**
- ✓ **Recognize competency-based apprenticeship programs**
- ✓ **Eliminate the need to register in multiple states and meet multiple rules**
- ✓ **Simplify federal reporting requirements**
- ✓ **Improve access to federal resources**

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#### About the National Network of Business and Industry Associations

*The National Network includes leaders in the manufacturing, retail, professional and business, real estate, health care, energy, construction, hospitality, transportation and information technology sectors, which represent the source of nearly 75 percent of projected U.S. job growth by 2020 (an estimated 30 million new jobs). These leaders are united in their commitment to help individuals understand and gain the skills they need to enter into and advance in the jobs of today and tomorrow. This unprecedented collaboration of typically competitive industries signals a commitment to support a better prepared and more fulfilled workforce. The National Network is made possible through support from Lumina Foundation and the Joyce Foundation. For more information, please visit [nationalnetwork.org](http://nationalnetwork.org).*