

# APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE



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## Putting Our Heads Together For The Future

Are there more meetings these days? Or does it just seem that way because we're battling digital overload and Zoom fatigue?

Let's be honest; it's overwhelming at times. It helps to sit back and recognize how important it is for the future of manufacturing for us to continue to collaborate, no matter the method. MACNY is active in the workforce development network across the state and in the U.S., with a goal of continuing innovation for thriving, well-trained workers for the jobs in our communities.

We know that one of the essential elements of workforce training is the registered apprenticeship. MACNY, the first trade association in the state to become NYSDOL-approved to sponsor apprenticeships, is at the table for conversations about best practices growing registered apprenticeships, both for adults and student learners. Convening educators, employers, and other key stakeholders on a regular basis keeps us abreast of potential new trades and emerging technologies. In this way, we keep our eye on current trends and the most recent data around business growth and training opportunities. Since 2017, MACNY has expanded its roster of NYSDOL-approved trades to more than 16, including the latest: Continuous Improvement Specialist, and Automotive Repair and Body Shop Technician.

MACNY's Workforce Development team contributes to sharing opportunities like industry roundtables and apprenticeship accelerators. We work with nationally-recognized [Jobs for the Future](#) (JFF) to further its mission to drive change in the American workforce and education systems to promote economic advancement for all.

Our participation in national networks of leaders and policymakers has led to deep dives that result in practical applications, like Apprenticeship 101, a toolkit for employers looking to establish apprenticeship programs at their own worksites. This is a wealth of information delivered by presenters from across the state bringing multiple insights not readily available through other sources ([click here](#) to view or visit <https://bit.ly/JFFgrowingLI>).

We recently dug into the issues that govern workforce opportunity and what it takes to prepare our citizens for work, like Youth Apprenticeship. Imagine the positive impacts and the legal regulations of working with students who are still in high school; youth apprenticeship is both a challenge and an opportunity. This robust conversation afforded employers the chance to discuss their concerns, such as insurance and the inherent value of growing talent as opposed to buying it.

The SUNY Apprenticeship team hosts regular industry roundtables to better inform employers of the benefits of apprenticeship and the resources available through SUNY; MACNY joins and appreciates this collaboration. The participation of Jane Thompson, NYSDOL Director of Apprenticeship, at these roundtables underscores the strong partnership that exists between the stakeholders, including representatives of the statewide Workforce Investment Boards, currently working to inform COVID-affected, unemployed New Yorkers of the great career opportunities available at local manufacturers.

We are excited to have the support of these organizations as we grow and expand apprenticeship and help manufacturers to fill their existing entry-level positions. To view slides from September's Industry Roundtable, [click here](#) or visit <https://bit.ly/industry921>.

The MACNY team is ready to provide information about participating in our group-sponsored apprenticeship program; we're happy to connect you with NYSDOL personnel if you'd like to sponsor your own program. Our SUNY team can help guide you through access to grants to offset the costs of related technical instruction for your apprentices.

With the rapid pace of change in our economy, it is helpful to know that stakeholders are at work, virtually and otherwise, to provide solutions that will ensure the future of work in New York State. Keep this in mind the next time you're daydreaming through a Webex and contact Laury Ferguson at [lferguson@macny.org](mailto:lferguson@macny.org) for information about workforce development.