

MONTANA YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PARTNERSHIP: A Statewide Strategy with Local Roots

The Montana Youth Apprenticeship Partnership (MYAP) is developing pilot programs in information technology and healthcare. These pilots will launch in Helena and Billings, and inform MYAP's efforts to develop a strategy to expand youth apprenticeship statewide.



Led by **Reach Higher Montana**, a public benefit partnership of the Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) and the Montana Higher Education Student Assistance Corporation, the Montana Youth Apprenticeship Partnership includes:

- **BillingsWorks**
- **Helena WINS**
- **Billings Public Schools**
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- **Montana State University Billings**
- **Helena College, University of Montana**
- **Carroll College**
- **Montana Registered Apprenticeship**
- **Office of the Governor of Montana**

Recognizing the talent pipeline challenges many employers face, former Governor Bullock has championed apprenticeship as a strategy to drive continued economic growth, and in 2017 signed an apprenticeship tax credit into law. Seeing an opportunity to better connect Montana's young adults with promising jobs and postsecondary opportunities, MYAP formed to pilot apprenticeship pathways for youth and to develop a strategy for adapting them to communities and employers across the state.

With support from PAYA, MYAP works with K-12 districts, post-secondary institutions, state agencies, and the business community to develop a blueprint for supporting the expansion of youth apprenticeship in Montana by:

- **DEVELOPING A PROOF OF CONCEPT** for youth apprenticeship within the state's Registered Apprenticeship system that can be adapted by local partnerships across the state, including Montana's many rural communities;
- **IMPLEMENTING A FLEXIBLE STATEWIDE INTERMEDIARY STRATEGY** to support state and local capacity to establish cross-sector partnerships, launch pilot programs, and plan for growth and sustainability; and,
- **EXPANDING EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION** through extensive outreach to the business community, aiming to expand youth apprenticeship in other growth industries.



There is a growing number of Montana employers utilizing registered apprenticeship in new occupations to meet their immediate workforce needs. We are also committed to reaching high school students with these opportunities for training and career preparation, and the PAYA grant and this coalition of stakeholders will be invaluable as we look to continue our leadership and innovation for Montana's future workforce.

STEVE BULLOCK, Former Governor of Montana