



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
**Labor & Workforce Development Agency**

GOVERNOR Edmund G. Brown Jr. • SECRETARY David Lanier

Agricultural Labor Relations Board • California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board  
California Workforce Development Board • Department of Industrial Relations  
Employment Development Department • Employment Training Panel • Public Employment Relations Board

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Labor and Workforce Development Agency Announces Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship**

*New committee will increase apprenticeship programs in high-growth industries*

**SACRAMENTO** – California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary David M. Lanier today announced the creation of the Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship. Six individuals representing business, labor and the public will join designees from state workforce agencies to help increase the number of registered apprenticeship programs in high-growth occupations such as transportation and logistics, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, information technology and civil service.

“California has a long-standing commitment to apprenticeship, and a particular focus in recent years has been the development of new non-traditional programs,” said Secretary Lanier. “Businesses meanwhile are increasingly seeing the advantage of this model – employees gain experience through on-the-job training, and employers have a steady supply of skilled workers available. Creating programs in growth industries will ensure our workforce is equipped with the skills and knowledge that lead to family supporting careers and economic mobility.”

In September, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed AB 235 (O’Donnell) to support the expansion of non-traditional apprenticeship programs while maintaining a high quality standard. The new law retains the ability of the California Apprenticeship Council to approve apprenticeship programs in firefighting and the building and construction trades, and establishes a separate path for the Division of Apprenticeship Standards – with the guidance of the advisory committee – to approve new programs in emerging areas.

The six Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship members appointed by Secretary Lanier pursuant to AB 235 are:

- Rebecca Bettencourt – Operations Training Manager, E&J Gallo Winery
- Lauren Fernandez – Senior Learning Development Consultant, SAP
- James Araby – Executive Director, United Food And Commercial Workers Western States Council

- Rebecca Hanson – Executive Director, SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West
- Lisa Countryman-Quiroz (public member) – Vice President of Planning & Program Development, JVS San Francisco
- Charles Henkles (public member) – Regional Apprenticeship Director, Norco College

The committee will also include designees from the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, Department of Industrial Relations, California Workforce Development Board, Employment Training Panel, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Chancellor of the California Community Colleges.

The new committee will hold its first meeting in San Diego on February 5, 2019. Meetings to follow will take place quarterly in conjunction with the California Apprenticeship Council meetings.

California has invested \$15 million each year over the past four years through the California Apprenticeship Initiative to promote the creation of new apprenticeship programs in emerging industries. In 2015, California had approximately 53,000 active apprentices and set a goal of doubling the number in five years. The state currently has more than 84,000 apprentices – the highest number in the 79-year history of state registered apprenticeship – and is on track to achieve the goal of more than 100,000 apprentices by the end of 2020.

The Division of Apprenticeship Standards in the California Department of Industrial Relations creates opportunities for Californians to gain employable lifetime skills and provides employers with a highly skilled and experienced workforce while strengthening California's economy. For more information on state registered apprenticeship programs and to search for available apprenticeship programs, visit <https://www.dir.ca.gov/das/das.html>.