



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 20, 2018**

## **Wolf Administration Provides Update on Progress of Expanding Apprenticeship Programs Across Pennsylvania**

**Harrisburg, PA** – Today, Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Jerry Oleksiak and Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary Dennis Davin provided updates on how the Wolf Administration is strengthening workforce development in Pennsylvania by expanding apprenticeship programs across the commonwealth. The state officials were joined by representatives from York-based precision stamping company Tooling Dynamics and the Philadelphia School District who discussed how the administration’s support of apprenticeships has bolstered their organizations and provided opportunity for enrolled apprentices.

“Governor Wolf is committed to expanding apprenticeship programs and job training efforts statewide by investing \$30 million through his new, innovative PAsmart initiative,” said Secretary Oleksiak. “PAsmart is bringing together workforce, education, and economic development partners to connect Pennsylvania learners with the training they need to secure good middle-class jobs and provide employers with a ready pipeline of high-skilled, well-trained employees to meet the needs of a 21st century economy.”

Philadelphia School District recently registered an HVAC and pipefitter trade addition to the school’s existing electrician and plumber apprenticeship programs being supported by the Wolf Administration. Some of the apprenticeship program’s participants are recent graduates from the school district’s career and technical education program. The new trade addition will be administered at the Thomas A. Edison High School in Philadelphia.

The new trade addition was approved by the L&I’s Apprenticeship and Training Office (ATO), which the Wolf administration established in 2016 to support and expand registered apprenticeship programs statewide. The office provides outreach, education, and technical support to current and prospective apprenticeship program sponsors and apprentices.

Under the Wolf Administration, the ATO has registered 119 new sponsors and 166 new apprenticeship programs or occupations, bringing the total number of registered apprentices to 16,286 statewide.

“From the development of the Apprenticeship Training Office in 2016 to the new PAsmart initiative, Governor Wolf has aggressively pursued policies that will support our workforce and expand apprenticeship programs for both traditional and nontraditional career fields,” Secretary Davin said. “Our role on the state level is to do everything we can to close the skills gap, empower our workers, and strengthen our business sector through apprenticeships.”

“Apprenticeships are the most critical aspect of our future business growth. Without apprentices, we do not have tool makers, and without tool makers, we do not have the ability to support our business or opportunities,” said Tyson Berkey, operations manager at Tooling Dynamics, which is receiving \$43,943 over three years to support its machinist, maintenance machinist, and tool and die maker apprenticeship programs. “Education can take individuals so far, but it is the apprenticeships that provide the experience and skill development in a limited market trade. We appreciate the support of the Wolf Administration in supporting our apprenticeship program.”

Governor Wolf’s PAsmart initiative is a new and innovative way to improve coordination between state agencies, cut red tape and invest in people and business to create and expand innovative job training in apprenticeships and other programs so workers get the skills that businesses need to compete in the global economy. The \$30 million initiative includes \$7 million to increase support for apprenticeships, with the goal of doubling the number of registered apprentices by 2025.

For more information about furthering career skills in Pennsylvania at any stage of life, visit [PAsmart](#).

**MEDIA CONTACTS:** Michael Gerber, DCED, 717-783-1132 or [dcedpress@pa.gov](mailto:dcedpress@pa.gov)  
Theresa Elliott, L&I, 717-787-7530 or [dlipress@pa.gov](mailto:dlipress@pa.gov)

# # #