



Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY

Steve Bullock, Governor | Pam Bucy, Commissioner

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

In registered apprenticeship, we are experiencing unprecedented growth in the construction occupations which is being driven by our current robust economic resurgence. In addition to this factor is the newly found support for work-based learning (WBL) as a vehicle to help promote affordable employment and training opportunities in many additional occupational fields – not only in the construction trades. Currently, there are more than 1,000 occupations determined to be apprenticeable here in Montana, we now have registered programs in 57 of those alternative occupations.

Beginning with the current administration in Washington, D.C. in 2014 a new attitude toward the value of utilizing the apprenticeship training model has emerged. This was being driven by several undeniable factors – the imminent retirement of thousands of baby boomers from the country's skilled labor pool; the nation's crumbling infrastructure and affordable career training methods to fill these and other serious needs.

To that end, US Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez has called for doubling the number of the country's registered apprenticeship training programs within the next five years. Not to issue an edict without programmatic financial backing, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) recently announced the award of \$10.4 million in Apprenticeship USA State Accelerator Grants to help state governments and others to highlight the benefits of registered apprenticeship expanding and diversifying the use of the time-tested, earn-while-you-learn training model. Montana was among the states that actively applied for and recently received, one of the initial \$200,000 accelerator grants. In addition, in the coming weeks, the US DOL will announce the release of another \$50 million in State Expansion Grants. The amount of each state's ultimate grant if awarded will be determined by their current number of registered apprentices and programs. It is anticipated based upon our projected numbers, Montana could possibly be approved for additional grant funding in the amount of \$300,000.

All of this activity at the federal level ties in perfectly with the governor's Main Street Montana Project for ensuring that now and into the future, Montana continues to maintain its well-earned reputation for having a highly-skilled and productive workforce.

Statistically identified high growth and in-demand occupations often now require highly technical skills and WBL is a proven method for teaching those skills. In this training model, students not only learn to do the work correctly they also know the theory behind it.

The department is fully committed to taking full advantage of these resources to assist in the development and expansion of many new and existing registered apprenticeship programs.

Accompanying this brief abstract of our forthcoming full report are a two graphs which visually document the unprecedented growth in the state's apprenticeship program as referenced in my opening.

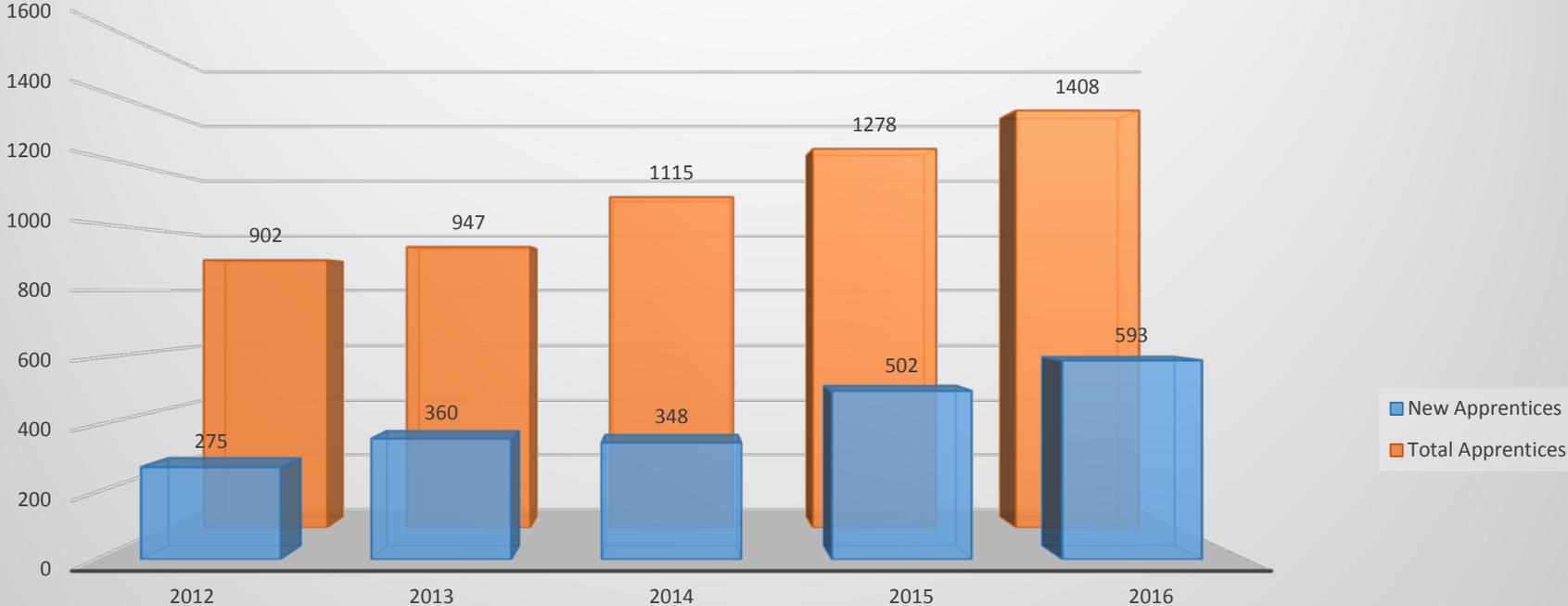
I hope you find this brief narrative informative. If you should have any specific questions regarding the program or require additional information please let us know.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Holzer', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Darrell Holzer, State Director
Registered Apprenticeship Program

56% total growth in Registered Apprenticeship



APPRENTICESHIP ACTIVITY FROM JAN 15' - JULY 16'

