## U.S. Department of Labor Difice of Federal Contract Compliance Programs 20 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20210

## **OFCCP YAW PROCLAMATION**

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WHEREAS, Youth Apprenticeship Week is celebrating its inaugural anniversary to raise awareness of vital role that Youth Apprenticeships play in providing opportunities and pathways to good, quality jobs and well-paying careers; and

WHEREAS, Youth Apprenticeship Week is designed to increase awareness of Registered Apprenticeships among youth, educators, parents, state agencies, workforce partners, and industry and to highlight the benefits of apprenticeships; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), recognizes the role of Registered Apprenticeship in expanding opportunities for our youth that are inclusive of individuals who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality, thus providing a path for all qualified individuals, including people of color, women, individuals with limited English proficiency, veterans, and individuals with disabilities, to become apprentices and contribute to America's industries; and

WHEREAS, the American Dream depends upon the next generation of experienced laborers and OFCCP is committed to removing barriers for youth and strengthening talent development pipelines for all industry sectors that simultaneously open the doors of opportunity to youth and young adults – our future workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michele Hodge, Acting Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, call upon our federal contractors to recognize the value of Registered Apprenticeship programs, and to promote industry awareness and expansion during the inaugural anniversary of Youth Apprenticeship Week: May 5 through May 11, 2024.

IN SUPPORT,

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Michele Hodge, Acting Director U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs