



**WHAT IS A REGISTERED
APPRENTICESHIP?**

Frequently Asked Questions

“Apprenticeship allows you to earn while you learn, master an occupation without going into debt – and gain a lifelong career. While I knew how to work hard and apply myself, as a young adult I had no technical skills prior to being employed as an Apprentice. In two years, I owned my first home. In short, Apprenticeship is opportunity.”

*Andrew Cortes, Executive Director
Building Futures & Apprenticeship RI*

What is a Registered Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship is paid employment, combining on-the-job learning with job-related classroom instruction to create an “earn while you learn” pathway.

How does Registered Apprenticeship differ from internship?

An internship is temporary “work” experience, often unpaid and often without established expectations. A Registered Apprenticeship is paid employment that leads to a career.

What is a Registered Apprenticeship?

An Apprentice learns while earning a paycheck. Apprentices pass through established milestones learned both on the job and in the classroom, eventually leading to mastery of the job.

In the building trades there is a long history of apprenticeship programs with bricklayers, electricians, plumbers, and other skilled workers following an established career path.

The RI Nursery and Landscape Association, in conjunction with RealJobs Rhode Island and Apprenticeship RI, is developing and piloting a nationally recognized Registered Apprenticeship program for different occupations within agriculture and plant-based industry.

What are the benefits of being an Apprentice?

- Paid on-the-job training with highly skilled industry professionals
- Free job related education, providing foundational knowledge and reinforcing skills learned on the job
- Wage increases reflect skills learned – opportunity to predictably progress in your career
- Investment by your employer in your training and skill development
- Structured and measurable on-the-job learning competencies leading to demonstrated milestones
- Valuable hands-on training in specialty trades (ex. masonry, green infrastructure, fine gardening)
- National certificate of Apprenticeship completion issued by the State of Rhode Island
- Credentials are transferrable and travel with you wherever you go
- Turns your job into a career!

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