



For Immediate Release

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BOLI will host Pacific Northwest Apprenticeship Education Conference

Apprenticeship experts to meet in Portland to discuss expanding economic opportunity

PORTLAND, OR—The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) will host the 2016 Pacific Northwest Apprenticeship Education Conference in Portland as educators, industry associations, and apprenticeship sponsors from the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia meet and discuss how best to strengthen registered apprenticeship programs.

Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. and the Oregon Building Congress will co-host the event. Organizers expect more than 300 attendees.

“A skilled workforce is central to our region’s ability to attract and retain well-paying jobs,” said Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian. “I’m pleased that Oregon will host this gathering of apprenticeship experts so that we can expand economic opportunity to more workers around the Northwest.”

Other conference speakers will include Alaska Labor Commissioner Heidi Drygas and Matt Miller, author of “Ditch That Textbook”. KGW’s Drew Carney will emcee the event.

What: **Pacific Northwest Apprenticeship Education Conference 2016**
Date: Tuesday, May 24th through Wednesday, May 25th
Location: DoubleTree Hilton Hotel and Conference Center
1000 NE Multnomah St.
Portland, OR

The conference will focus on four areas involving the skilled trades:

- **Non-traditional apprenticeship**
- **Education** (K-12, career and technical education, community colleges)
- **Government** (Mandatory utilization, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)
- **Construction trades apprenticeship**

[Workshop sessions](#) will cover topics such as supporting advanced manufacturing, career and technical education expansion, and attracting under-represented populations to the trades.

In late 2014, the [Institute for Women’s Policy Research](#) and [Jobs for the Future](#) recognized [Oregon’s efforts](#) to attract more women and people of color into apprenticeships focused on the heavy highway construction workforce.

Visit: www.apprenticeshipconferences.com for registration, call for proposals, event agenda and sponsorship information.

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For more information about BOLI's efforts to support Oregon employers and protect Oregon's workforce, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/BOLI>.