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State's First HR Apprenticeship Program Announced

TOPEKA – The Kansas State Council of SHRM (KS SHRM) has announced its plans to introduce the first HR professional Registered Apprenticeship program in Kansas. Through local, state and federal partnerships, KS SHRM will educate Kansas employers and employees on this unique opportunity to attain HR credentials through an on-the-job apprenticeship track.

“The opportunity for KS SHRM to partner at the local, state and federal levels to address workforce needs and grow our state’s HR talent pipeline is unprecedented,” said David Love, President of the Kansas State Council for Human Resource Management. “Innovative ideas are what we need in Kansas to address our workforce shortages and I am proud of KS SHRM for taking the initiative and thinking outside the box.”

Earlier this month, Governor Laura Kelly established a new Office of Registered Apprenticeship within the Kansas Department of Commerce to invest in growing apprenticeship programs across Kansas. The office is aimed at increasing efforts to meet the talent needs of Kansas businesses, give workers the skills and experience they need to compete in the modern economy, and knock down barriers to employment.

“Our partnership and investment with KS SHRM to grow apprenticeships in Kansas is exciting. It is these types of concerted efforts and partnerships that will change the way we look at workforce development and provide opportunities we have not seen in Kansas before,” said Shonda Atwater, Director of Internships and Apprenticeships, Kansas Office of Apprenticeship.

Kansas will be the first state to partner with the SHRM Foundation to market its program HR RAP, which is a U.S. Department of Labor-registered HR apprenticeship program in its efforts to source and upskill untapped talent for entry-level HR positions.

“This ‘learn-while-you-earn’ model offers on-the-job training and educational requirements that lead to higher productivity, increased retention and a diversified talent pool,” said Mary Wright, Manager of the SHRM Foundation Apprenticeship Program. “The SHRM Foundation is thrilled to partner with the Kansas State Council for Human Resource Management.”

KS SHRM will launch HR RAP by partnering with five local KS SHRM chapters this fall. The SHRM local chapters include Johnson County, Manhattan, Salina, Wichita and Garden City.

Additional information can be found at <https://hrapprentice.org/> or by contacting KS SHRM Executive Director Natalie Bright, natalie@brightcarpenter.com.

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About KS SHRM:

Representing over 2,200 individual members, the Kansas State Council of SHRM (KS SHRM) is the state affiliate for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Founded in 1948, SHRM is the world’s largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society has more than 285,000 members and is the global voice of the profession. KS SHRM is a non-profit, volunteer-led organization whose primary objective is to support the mission and initiatives of SHRM. KS SHRM coordinates professional development efforts, and serve as the conduit for communication among SHRM, affiliated chapters, and at-large members. To learn more, visit www.ksshrm.org.