



NEWS

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Shapiro to Attend White House Summit

Norristown, PA (July 11, 2014) – Montgomery County Commissioners Chair Josh Shapiro has been invited by the Obama Administration to participate in a White House summit on American apprenticeships on Monday, July 14. The summit will feature a diverse mix of leading employers, labor organizations, community colleges, state and local leaders, and workforce development and training organizations to discuss opportunities and strategies to expand apprenticeships.

The roundtable discussion will focus on expanding and innovating apprenticeships in America, and will explore successful strategies and emerging innovations that can help reach President Obama's ambitious goal to double the number of apprenticeships in the next five years and expand apprenticeships into new fields and high-growth industries.

"I am honored to have been chosen to participate in this important discussion," said Shapiro. "The timing of this summit is extremely fortuitous coming on the heels of the reconfiguration and reorganization of our Commerce Department in Montgomery County. I plan to share some of the innovative and cutting edge ideas we are implementing and to listen closely to what others are doing to expand employment and commerce in their areas."

The President on April 16th announced that his Administration will be making available \$100 million in American Apprenticeship Grants this fall to expand innovative apprenticeships and to scale high-quality apprenticeship models that work. In addition, the Department of Labor, as part of the Administration's job-driven training reforms is reinvesting in and revitalizing its capabilities to support employers and communities looking to expand apprenticeship.

The summit agenda will feature a discussion of critical investments that can scale existing models or spur needed innovations in American apprenticeships; avenues to expand apprenticeship in high-

growth industries and emerging occupations, such as IT, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing; and, strategies that states and regions can use to lay the groundwork for an expansion of apprenticeships in their region and to reach a wider range of workers.