



For Immediate Release

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Tech Quest Apprenticeship and Franklin Apprenticeships collaborate to help 1,000 people launch tech careers since 2019; announce milestone to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week 2022

November 14, 2022, (Worcester, MA) – Tech Quest Apprenticeship, a nationwide apprenticeship program administered by [Clark University](#), and Franklin Apprenticeships, a tech apprenticeship provider, are today celebrating having helped more than 1,000 individuals in 47 states launch their tech careers through pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs. Tech Quest is celebrating this milestone with Franklin and its other partners during the 8th annual National Apprenticeship Week and plans to share success stories of apprenticeships they secured in new and emerging industries.

“Apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships are proven to be effective ways to provide individuals with experiential learning opportunities for careers in IT and IT-related professions,” said Dug Jones, Director of Workforce Grants at Clark University.

[Franklin Apprenticeships](#), a five-year-old, woman-led company, has been one of Clark’s strongest training partners since the university was awarded the [Tech Quest Scaling Apprenticeship grant from the Department of Labor in 2019](#). Franklin proactively promotes the benefits of apprenticeships and encourages individuals from underserved and unrepresented groups to pursue these quality training and employment opportunities.

“We would never have reached this milestone of assisting 1,000 individuals without their help,” said Jones.

By removing the requirement for a college degree or prior experience, Tech Quest and Franklin Apprenticeships have expanded access to tech careers to those who have previously been excluded. Program participants comprise of 32% women; 56% Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC); and 12% veterans. Participants' typical age range is between 26 and 30 years old.

Working together, Tech Quest and its 21 partners including Franklin Apprenticeships, have provided individuals an opportunity to gain foundational skills for entry-level jobs in the tech industry. Tech Quest has specifically assisted Franklin in training pre-apprentices in 482 cities across 47 states and employing apprentices with 42 top employers across the United States.

“We’re proud to collaborate with Tech Quest to offer these life-changing pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs which are expanding the tech talent pool nationwide,” says Kimberly

Nichols, CEO, and founder of Franklin Apprenticeships. “It’s inspiring to see the growth these individuals have made both personally and professionally.”

For example, Dahir J., of Fairfax County, Virginia, a former HVAC technician, tripled his salary in two years thanks to his Help Desk Apprenticeship.

“Even if someone doesn’t have the experience, it doesn’t mean that they don’t have the drive or the learning aptitude to pick up something new,” Dahir explained. “My Franklin Apprenticeship changed my life, and I will do everything I can to help more people learn about this path.”

Tech Quest and Franklin Apprenticeships support individuals on pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships for the following occupations: Cybersecurity, Help Desk, IBM Z Mainframe Systems Administrator, IBM Z Application Developer, Network Engineering and Software Engineering.

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About Tech Quest Apprenticeship

Tech Quest Apprenticeship is a U.S. Department of Labor-funded initiative led by Clark University, Public Consulting Group (PCG), and a national consortium of workforce development boards and higher education institutions that will provide 4000 pre-apprenticeships and 1000 IT and IT-related apprenticeships to unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers over the next four years. Through these apprenticeship programs, workers will be matched with employers and receive both on-the-job and related instruction, gaining employment and increasing their wages as they improve their skills and move up the career ladder. The initiative will register at least five new technology-focused apprenticeship programs to expand IT-related apprenticeships into new areas. Tech Quest Apprenticeship is an equal opportunity program fully supported by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) as part of an award totaling \$11,999,771.

About Clark University

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow’s most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our learning community to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence. Clark’s academic departments and institutes develop solutions to complex global problems across the disciplines, and the University addresses the behavioral health of adolescents and young adults through the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise.

About Franklin Apprenticeships

Franklin Apprenticeships is a women-owned company that helps employers fill mission-critical tech roles with undiscovered, diverse talent. By removing the barriers of a college degree and prior experience, Franklin finds outstanding candidates from all walks of life with an aptitude for tech, helps them to become job-ready, and matches them with employers. Franklin's Professional Success Coaches support them and their employers every step of the way through "earn and learn" apprenticeship programs. Franklin unlocks the potential within people and organizations. Franklin's employers report their apprentices are 80% productive within six months, and 100% competent by the end of their apprenticeships. Learn more at www.franklinapprenticeships.com.