

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE BOARDS, HOTEL INDUSTRY ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT**

The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) and the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Foundation (AHLEF) today announced a partnership to further their common mission of connecting a knowledgeable and skilled workforce with the needs of business and industry.

Through the partnership, NAWB and AHLEF will strengthen the relationship between the lodging industry and the country's network of workforce boards who help to fund both pre- and post-employment skills training for high-need occupants. The two organizations will build awareness of career pathways in the hospitality industry and AHLEF's apprenticeship and certification programs, and share information and best practices to ensure the workforce community is helping prepare the next generation of employees.

"NAWB is committed to the advancement of our nation's workforce. Closing the skills gap requires partnerships between industry and workforce boards "stated Ron Painter, CEO of NAWB. "We know how critical it is for workforce development boards to have the information, support and engagement of industry if they are to address both individual and local economic needs. The partnership with AHLEF will help the workforce development system meet the evolving needs of the hotel and lodging and broader hospitality industry sector."

"With eight consecutive years of job growth and an estimated 600,000 job vacancies, the hotel industry cares deeply about building a strong talent pipeline now and in the years to come," said Rosanna Maietta, president of AHLEF. "We are excited to partner with NAWB as part of our commitment to ensuring the future health of our industry. Workforce boards play an important role in our efforts to support the next generation of hoteliers and connect them to opportunities in our industry. We look forward to working with them and continue moving our organizations forward."

Hotels are a major economic driver in the U.S., supporting 8 million jobs and \$355 billion in labor income. The lodging industry offers upward mobility and exciting lifelong careers, as well as a fast track to management positions. According to a 2016 Wage Watch survey, more than half of hotel general managers and department managers began their hotel careers in hourly, entry-level positions.

Through the partnership, NAWB will regularly share information highlighting opportunities within the hotel industry with workforce development boards through its publications, podcasts, conferences, and website. Likewise, AHLEF will share information on how to effectively connect and work with the Boards with its members and industry partners across the country.

### **About National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)**

*The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) supports its members through a comprehensive program of advocacy, training and technical assistance, communication, and the promotion of strategic partnerships for the advancement of our nation's workforce. For more information on NAWB, visit [www.nawb.org](http://www.nawb.org), and to see how investments in workforce development keep Americans working, go to [WorkforceInvestmentWorks.com](http://WorkforceInvestmentWorks.com).*

### **About the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Foundation (AHLEF)**

*AHLEF is the industry's philanthropic organization, dedicated to helping people build careers that improve their lives and strengthen the lodging industry. Founded in 1953, AHLEF is a subsidiary of the American Hotel & Lodging Association and provides resources for hospitality-related education, career development, research and public awareness of the industry.*