

New Jersey Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education (NJPLACE)

WHAT IS THE INNOVATION? Full articulation of Registered Apprenticeship credentials into NJ Community College Associated Degrees and Transferability of Coursework to Bachelor Degrees



21st Century Registered Apprenticeship

Program Description:

In January 2010, a New Jersey law (Assembly Bill A4327) was passed that formally established NJ's Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education (NJ PLACE). The Act created organizational realignments and also amended the New Jersey Comprehensive Statewide Transfer Agreement to include NJ PLACE participants.

Beginning in 2011, all public institutions of higher education in New Jersey were required to treat each Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Technical Studies degree awarded to a NJ PLACE participant, in the same manner as an Associate in Arts (AA) or Associate in Science (AS) degree with respect to credit transfer. Practically speaking, this creates much-needed Bachelor degree pathways for participants, guaranteeing apprentices a seamless way to transfer credits from their apprenticeship to an Associate degree and on to a Bachelor degree. The Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations created a Bachelor degree pathway to their Bachelor of Science in Labor and Employment Relations, and NJ PLACE is also in the process of expanding articulation agreements between New Jersey's community colleges and its four-year colleges and

universities to develop additional pathways from apprenticeship to baccalaureate degrees.

Affordability and accessibility for apprentices figure strongly in the NJ PLACE model. In addition to being guaranteed a minimum number of transfer credits toward degree requirements, apprentices receive in-county tuition rates at any New Jersey community college regardless of their county of residence. And apprentices may take their classes at any community college in New Jersey, regardless of where they are formally enrolled, as long as both colleges offer the same course, and the courses will still count toward their degree. NJ PLACE also supports accessibility for apprentices by designating an individual at each community college to guide apprentices through the policies and procedures at the school.

Strong partnerships have been essential to the success of the NJ PLACE program. Partners pushed for a statewide model and systemic change now emboldened by the legislation. This program is blazing new paths in the articulation between Registered Apprenticeship and college coursework opening new doors for the state's apprentices.

Populations Served:

- Registered Apprentices

Industries Served:

- Construction
- Automotive
- Culinary
- Healthcare

Key Partners:

- 19 NJ Community Colleges
- Rutgers University
- State University of NJ
- 12 RA Sponsors
- NJ Dept. of Labor & Workforce Dev.
- NJ State Employment & Training Comm.
- USDOL-ETA/OA

HIGHLIGHTS

Outcomes:

- A more highly educated, versatile workforce
- Official recognition of RA education & training
- Enhanced and lengthened career pathways

Fast Facts:

- Program provides "in county" tuition rates regardless of county of residence
- A delegation from Sweden is reviewing NJPLACE for possible replication internationally
- Classes transfer from ANY participating Community College