To enable projects that will aid in the development and delivery of related instruction associated with apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs that are focused on serving the skilled technical workforce at the National Laboratories and certain facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. Duckworth (for herself and Mr. Crapo) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To enable projects that will aid in the development and delivery of related instruction associated with apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs that are focused on serving the skilled technical workforce at the National Laboratories and certain facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
4 This Act may be cited as the “Department of Energy
5 National Labs Jobs ACCESS Act”.

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SEC. 2. NATIONAL LABORATORY JOBS ACCESS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program known as the “Department of Energy National Lab Jobs ACCESS Program”, under which the Secretary shall award, on a competitive basis, 5-year grants to eligible entities described in subsection (c) for the Federal share of the costs of technical, skills-based preapprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that provide employer-driven or recognized postsecondary credentials during the grant period.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A program funded by a grant awarded under this section shall develop and deliver customized and competency-based training that—

1. leads to recognized postsecondary credentials for secondary school and postsecondary students;
2. is focused on skills and qualifications needed to meet the immediate and on-going needs of traditional and emerging technician positions (including machinists and cyber security technicians) at the National Laboratories and covered facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration;
3. creates an apprenticeship or preapprenticeship partnership with a National Lab-
oratory or covered facility of the National Nuclear
Security Administration; and

(4) creates an apprenticeship or
preapprenticeship program with the Secretary of
Labor or a State department of labor.

(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity that is eligible
to receive a grant under this section shall be a workforce
intermediary or an eligible sponsor of a preapprenticeship
or an apprenticeship program that—

(1) demonstrates experience in implementing
and providing career planning and career pathways
towards technical, skills-based apprenticeship or
preapprenticeship training programs;

(2)(A) has a relationship with a National Lab-
oratory or covered facility of the National Nuclear
Security Administration;

(B) has knowledge of technician workforce
needs of such laboratory or facility and the associ-
ated security requirements of such laboratory or fa-
cility; and

(C) is eligible to enter into an agreement with
such laboratory or facility that would be paid for in
part or entirely from grant funds received under this
section;
(3) demonstrates the ability to recruit and support individuals who plan to work in relevant technician positions upon the successful completion of such programs;

(4) provides students who complete such programs with a recognized postsecondary credential, such as a journeyman craft license or an industry-recognized certification;

(5) uses a customized training curriculum that is specifically aligned with employers, utilizing workplace learning advisors and on-the-job training to the greatest extent possible; and

(6) demonstrates successful outcomes connecting graduates of such programs to careers relevant to such programs.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(e) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities to receive grants under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize an eligible entity that—

(1) is a member of an industry or sector partnership;
(2) provides the training described in subsection (b)—

(A) at an institution of higher education (such as a community college) that includes basic science, technology, and mathematics education in the curriculum;

(B) through an apprenticeship program that was registered with the Department of Labor or a State before the date on which the eligible entity applies for the grant under subsection (d); or

(C) with respect to a preapprenticeship program, at a local educational agency, a secondary school, an area career and technical education school, or an appropriate community facility;

(3) works with the Secretary of Defense or veterans organizations to transition members of the Armed Forces and veterans to apprenticeship or preapprenticeship programs in a relevant sector;

(4) plans to use the grant to carry out the training described in subsection (b) with an entity that receives State funding or is operated by a State agency; and
(5) plans to use the grant to carry out the training described in subsection (b) for—

(A) young adults ages 17 to 29, inclusive;

or

(B) individuals with barriers to employment.

(f) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall consider regional diversity.

(g) LIMITATION ON APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity may not submit, either individually or as part of a joint application, more than 1 application for a grant under this section during any 1 fiscal year.

(h) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant provided under this section for any 24-month period of the 5-year grant period shall not exceed $500,000.

(i) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of a customized training program carried out using a grant under this section shall be not less than 25 percent of the total cost of the program.

(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance to eligible entities described in subsection (c) to leverage the existing job training and
education programs of the Department of Labor and other relevant programs at appropriate Federal agencies.

(k) Report.—

(1) In general.—Not less than once every 2 years, the Secretary of Labor shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Labor, a report on the program established under this section, including—

(A) a description of—

(i) any entity that receives a grant under this section;

(ii) any activity carried out using the grants under this section; and

(iii) best practices used to leverage the investment of the Federal Government under this section; and

(B) an assessment of the results achieved by the program established under this section, including the rate of employment for participants after completing a job training and education program carried out using a grant under this section.

(2) Provision of information.—The Secretary of Energy shall provide such information as
necessary to the Secretary of Labor for purposes of
the report under paragraph (1).

(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “local edu-
cational agency” and “secondary school” have the
meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Ele-
mental and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20

(2) WIOA TERMS.—The terms “career plan-
ing”, “community-based organization”, “cus-
tomized training”, “economic development agency”,
“individual with a barrier to employment”, “indus-
try or sector partnership”, “on-the-job training”,
“recognized postsecondary credential”, and “work-
place learning advisor” have the meanings given
such terms in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation

(3) APPRENTICESHIP.—The term “apprentice-
ship” means an apprenticeship registered under the
Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the
“National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chap-
ter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

(4) AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
SCHOOL.—The term “area career and technical edu-
cation school” has the meaning given the term in

(5) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “community college” has the meaning given the term “junior or community college” in section 312(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).

(6) COVERED FACILITY OF THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.—The term “covered facility of the National Nuclear Security Administration” means a national security laboratory or a nuclear weapons production facility as such terms are defined in section 4002 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2501).

(7) ELIGIBLE SPONSOR.—The term “eligible sponsor” means a public organization or an organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of that Code, that—

(A) with respect to an apprenticeship program, administers such program through a partnership that may include—

(i) a business;

(ii) an employer or industry association;

(iii) a labor-management organization;
(iv) a local workforce development board or State workforce development board;

(v) a 2- or 4-year institution of higher education that offers an educational program leading to an associate’s or bachelor’s degree in conjunction with a certificate of completion of apprenticeship;

(vi) the Armed Forces (including the National Guard and Reserves);

(vii) a community-based organization;

or

(viii) an economic development agency; and

(B) with respect to a preapprenticeship program, is a local educational agency, a secondary school, an area career and technical education school, a State workforce development board, a local workforce development board, or a community-based organization, that administers such program with any required coordination and necessary approvals from the Secretary of Labor or a State department of labor.
(8) **Institution of higher education.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(9) **Local workforce development board.**—The term “local workforce development board” has the meaning given the term “local board” in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(10) **National laboratory.**—The term “National Laboratory” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(11) **Preapprenticeship.**—The term “preapprenticeship”, used with respect to a program, means an initiative or set of strategies that—

(A) is designed to prepare participants to enter and succeed in an apprenticeship program;

(B) is carried out by an eligible sponsor that has a documented partnership with one or more sponsors of apprenticeship programs; and

(C) includes each of the following:

(i) Training (including a curriculum for the training) aligned with industry
standards related to apprenticeships and reviewed and approved annually by sponsors of the apprenticeships within the documented partnership that will prepare participants by teaching the skills and competencies needed to enter one or more apprenticeship programs.

(ii) Hands-on training and theoretical education for participants that—

(I) includes proper observation of supervision and safety protocols; and

(II) does not displace a paid employee.

(iii) A formal agreement with a sponsor of an apprenticeship program that would enable participants who successfully complete the preapprenticeship program—

(I) to enter directly into the apprenticeship program if a place in the program is available and if the participant meets the qualifications of the apprenticeship program; and

(II) to earn credits towards the apprenticeship program.
(12) **RELATED INSTRUCTION.**—The term “related instruction” means an organized and systematic form of instruction designed to provide an apprentice with the knowledge of the theoretical and technical subjects related to the occupation of the apprentice or the instruction needed to prepare an individual to enter and succeed in an apprenticeship program.

(13) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, except as otherwise specified in this Act.

(14) **STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.**—The term “State workforce development board” has the meaning given the term “State board” in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(15) **WORKFORCE INTERMEDIARY.**—The term “workforce intermediary”—

(A) means an organization that proactively addresses workforce needs using a dual customer approach, which considers the needs of both employees and employers; and

(B) may include a faith-based and community organization, an employer organization, a
community college, a temporary staffing agency, a State workforce development board, a local workforce development board, or a labor organization.

(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2024.