

## **Apprenticeships are critical to America's future as a knowledge economy**

An exciting trend is emerging in the US workforce: [over half a million](#) workers are using apprenticeships to acquire valuable experience and a pathway to a steady job. They're earning money while learning critical, in-demand skills.

In spite of this progress, a stigma remains. For generations, common wisdom has held that a college degree is the best path to professional success; apprenticeships have been considered a second-class option for less-desirable, blue-collar jobs.

As teachers, workers, employers, and students, we must change that narrative and embrace apprenticeships as the path to the [new-collar](#) – or specialized skills-based – jobs of the future, such as software engineers, data analysts, and registered nurses, to name a few...

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