

# Whereas

*Whereas,* rising costs of higher education and evolving employer workforce training needs make apprenticeship an increasingly important career pathway to the middle class; and

*Whereas,* women have historically been excluded from apprenticeship opportunities that lead to meaningful careers with family-supporting wages; and

*Whereas,* apprenticeship is a critical pathway for women to participate fully and equally in Portland's growing economy; and

*Whereas,* women currently occupy only ten percent of all apprenticeships, and less than three percent of construction trades jobs nationally; and

*Whereas,* economic equality for all Oregonians is measured not only by protection from discrimination but also by equitable access to quality job opportunities; and

*Whereas,* with the support of the city, state agencies, and Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc., the Portland metropolitan region has achieved more than triple the national rate of women in construction trades apprenticeships and the City of Portland is committed to upholding its position as a national leader in the inclusion of women in apprenticeship;

*Now, Therefore,* I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to be

*Women in Apprenticeship Day*

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this day.

