

NAWB PARTNERS WITH THE NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION FOUNDATION
***National Association of Workforce Boards and NRF Foundation Announce Partnership to
Strengthen Pathways to Work and Career Advancement***

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) and the NRF Foundation are pleased to announce a partnership that will strengthen the relationship between the retail industry, which supports one in four - or 42 million - U.S. jobs, and the nation's workforce development boards.

NAWB and the NRF Foundation are committed to creating a more strategic approach to providing economic opportunity and career mobility for job seekers while simultaneously supporting the labor force needs of retailers in a dynamic time for the industry. In 2017 the NRF Foundation launched RISE Up (Retail Industry Skills & Education), a training and credentialing initiative aimed at helping people - regardless of education, background, economic means, or age - acquire the skills they need to secure jobs in retail and advance into promising careers. In 2018, the Foundation will focus on engaging with workforce boards to achieve shared goals for those seeking work in the nation's largest industry sector. The NAWB-NRF Foundation partnership will:

- Strengthen the connection between workforce boards and retail employers at the community and hiring manager levels.
- Inform the evolution of the NRF Foundation's RISE Up strategy, including how it can best support retailers who serve on the nation's workforce boards.
- Provide tools, including market intelligence, to support the development and implementation of innovative strategies that meet the career interests of individuals and the labor force needs of retailers.

"The retail sector provides good opportunities for workforce system - from a first job that affirms foundational skills to true career mobility based on skills and attainable recognized credentials," noted Ron Painter, CEO of NAWB. "From a workforce development perspective, the partnership between local workforce boards and the retail sector is a smart strategy and makes good economic sense. NAWB looks forward to partnering with the NRF Foundation to advance the work."

"We're thrilled to join forces with NAWB and improve representation of and support for retail, the nation's largest private-sector employer, on workforce development boards across the country," NRF Foundation Executive Director Ellen Davis said. "We know that the workforce development system is as unique and varied as the retail sector. NAWB is the perfect partner to help us navigate this complex system and ensure more individuals have access to valuable retail employment opportunities."

About the 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, and to see how investments in workforce development keep Americans working, go to <http://www.WorkforceInvestmentWorks.com>.

About the NRF Foundation

The NRF Foundation shapes retail's future by building awareness of the industry through statistics and stories; developing talent through education, experiences and scholarships; and fostering career growth among people who work in retail. The NRF Foundation is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit arm of the National Retail Federation and is funded in part by generous donations from retail industry supporters. NRF.com/Foundation.

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