

# DOE National Labs Jobs ACCESS Act

## **Background:**

The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Laboratories and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) production sites enable our country to address pressing national challenges. They provide scientific solutions to reduce the threat of nuclear proliferation, terrorism, cyber threats, and advance the innovation cycle for cutting-edge technologies.

Many of these employees at our National Laboratories and NNSA sites are retiring or nearing retirement age. A 2017 NNSA report indicated that over 50 percent of the workforce in key technician positions is within five years of retirement age and less than 7 percent are under 30 years old.

## **Bill Summary**

The capability of these facilities and sites depends on the skill and knowledge of their employees. To that end, we must continue to make deliberate and strategic investments in our human capital. Building a successful workforce pipeline requires strategic and sustained collaboration between local educational institutions, the laboratories and NNSA sites, and intermediaries that can assist in enabling the delivery of effective and accelerated training.

The *DOE National Labs Jobs ACCESS Act* (Apprenticeships for Complete and Committed Employment of Specialized Skills) provides grant funding to the Department of Energy in consultation with the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship, for the development and delivery of targeted programs that are designed specifically for the technical training needs at these sites. These programs will create pathways for careers at these sites and align the specific job skill demands with new apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

The DOE National Labs Jobs ACCESS Act will support targeted apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs that utilize local high schools, community colleges, universities, other higher education institutions and workforce intermediaries working in partnership with national laboratories and NNSA sites to fill the skills gap in critical sectors of the workforce.