



CHANCE in Tech Act Fact Sheet

The information technology (IT) industry relies on an innovative and evolving workforce with a specific set of skills and training. But IT jobs don't necessarily follow the traditional path of a four-year degree. Instead, pathways to these high-paying jobs can begin in high school and continue through training programs and apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships allow IT companies to directly train and hire the workers they need while ensuring that participants have the specific skills employers are looking for upon completion. Alternative education models that include industry-led work based learning will help fill the job openings currently available and spur further economic growth.

The *Championing Apprenticeships for New Careers and Employees in Technology (CHANCE in Tech) Act*, introduced by U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) will help provide workers from all backgrounds with the skills and knowledge they need to fill good-paying tech jobs. This legislation will better align workforce training in the IT sector to better meet local and regional demands.

Specifically, the CHANCE in Tech Act:

- Instructs the Department of Labor to award contracts to industry intermediaries to develop apprenticeships in the technology sector.
- Defines industry intermediaries as entities that serve as a conduit between employers, training partners, and government bodies. These intermediaries have the capacity to help broker new tech-sector partnerships and identify workforce trends. Intermediaries would form collaborations between private sector industries and training programs.
- Makes apprenticeships available to high school students, early college STEM students, and post-secondary students.
- Establishes the "CHANCE in Tech Awards for 21st Century Schools" award that would go to schools that demonstrate high achievement in providing students with the necessary skills to compete in the 21st century workforce.

This legislation has been designed in partnership with the [New Mexico Tech Council](#), which is an association of about 150 businesses in New Mexico's technology business sector.

Inspiration for the apprenticeship program came from the [New Mexico Information Technology Apprenticeship Program](#) (NMITAP). A branch of CNM Ingenuity, Inc. NMITAP is developing apprenticeships in high-quality, high-growth careers in Information and Health Technology.