



January 3, 2018

Statement by Melinda Mack, Executive Director of the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals on the Governor's State of the State Address

The *New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals* applauds the Governor for taking a bold step forward to create the skilled workforce of today and tomorrow, as described in his "19th proposal aimed at strengthening workforce development in New York".

Over the last five years, through our countless discussions with the business community, it is clear their overwhelming challenge to doing business in New York is finding a pipeline of skilled workers. At NYATEP, we strongly believe that our human capital is our greatest natural resource, and should be at the center of our economic development strategies. The best workforce development programs are intentional partnerships between the business community, education and training providers, and community based organizations. They are flexible, regional and responsive to both jobseekers and employers. Over the past decade, New York's federal funding to educate and train New Yorkers has been cut by more than half. In contrast, the Governor has made a strong statement by committing \$175 million in flexible resources to this effort.

Our hope is that the Governor's 19th proposal will create a truly comprehensive workforce system that ensures all New Yorkers have access to education and training to meet and adapt to the growing workforce needs in our State. This is an incredible opportunity for our State to rethink, with key stakeholders, how it sustainably invests in job training as economic development; how it creates an easily navigable system for businesses and New Yorkers; and uses data to drive policy decisions.

We look forward to learning more about this proposal and the funding to support this proposal. Additionally, we are ready to collaborate with the Governor's office and the Legislature to ensure that this vision is informed by evidence-based practice, on-the-ground experience, and most importantly meets the needs of our business and workforce community.

To learn more about NYATEP or to read the *2017 State of the Workforce Report* visit www.nyatep.org

To read the Governor's full proposal visit: <http://www.governor.ny.gov/keywords/state-state>