

PRESS RELEASE



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EDSI Helps Bucks County Intermediate Unit Register Three First-of-Their-Kind Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship Programs in Pennsylvania

Registered Behavior Technician, Highly Qualified Teacher's Aide, Pre-K-12 Special Education Teacher pathways mark historic milestones for Pennsylvania's workforce development landscape

BUCKS COUNTY, PA — EDSI, a national leader in workforce development, customized training, and consulting, today announced the successful registration of three first-of-their-kind apprenticeship programs in Pennsylvania in partnership with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit (Bucks IU). Each program marks a historic milestone for the Commonwealth – expanding registered apprenticeship into two critical and underserved workforce areas: behavioral health and special education.

The three programs – the Registered Behavior Technician Apprenticeship (RBT), the Highly Qualified Teacher's Aide Pre-Apprenticeship, and the Pre-K–12 Special Education Teacher Registered Apprenticeship – were developed over multiple years through a sustained partnership between Bucks County Intermediate Unit's Supervisor of Apprenticeship Programs and EDSI's Regional Apprenticeship Manager. Bucks IU has since expanded its apprenticeship offerings, with a fourth program nearing completion.

“We would not have developed the Bucks IU Educator Pathway as quickly or as efficiently without EDSI's initial guidance and expertise,” said Jennifer Rawson, M.S., BCBA, Supervisor of Apprenticeship Programs at Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22. “Whenever I had a question about funding, paperwork, or policy, EDSI's Registered Apprenticeship Manager, Adina Tayar was just a phone call away.”

EDSI's provided end-to-end support across all three programs –navigating funding sources including WIOA and the ABA grant, guiding program design, and connecting Bucks IU to the Keystone Apprenticeship Alliance and KDP Apprenticeship Navigator program. Her approach was focused on building Bucks IU's internal capacity, not just completing individual tasks — enabling Bucks IU's team to lead the third program registration largely independently.

“This partnership is a powerful example of what becomes possible when employers and institutions have the right regional support behind them,” said Nick Shirk, EDSI Regional Director of Operations. “Adina's investment in Bucks IU 's long-term expertise – not just their immediate needs – is exactly the kind of work we believe so strongly in.”

The achievement demonstrates the replicability of EDSI's regional apprenticeship model across industries and workforce areas. As registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship continues to grow as a workforce strategy in education, healthcare, technology, and skilled trades, EDSI is positioned to provide the same depth of partnership to employers and institutions across the regions they serve.

About EDSI

Founded in 1979, EDSI is a national workforce development, customized training, and consulting company with more than 850 employees serving communities across the country. EDSI partners with workforce development agencies, employers, and regional organizations to deliver people-centered solutions that build stronger workforces.

The company manages more than 120 contracts nationwide, providing business services, jobseeker placement and retention support, as well as world-class training and consulting solutions for corporations, public entities, and government agencies. EDSI is also a proud Certified Evergreen® company through the Tugboat Institute, recognized for its enduring commitment to values, continuous improvement, and excellence in people and practices.

About Bucks County Intermediate Unit

Established in 1971 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Bucks County Intermediate Unit (Bucks IU) is a regional educational service agency supporting public and private K–12 schools, districts, and the broader Bucks County community. The organization provides cost-effective programs while serving as a key link between local schools and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, addressing both traditional and emerging educational needs.

Bucks IU supports learners from early childhood through adulthood and fosters inclusive environments where all can grow and succeed. Today, it serves more than 96,000 students across 270 schools, in partnership with over 9,000 educators, strengthening outcomes for students, families, and communities.

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