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**Habitat Omaha Apprenticeship Program Earns Approval from U.S. Department of Labor**  
*Provides pathway for skills and career advancement through on-the-job learning and classroom instruction at Metropolitan Community College*

Omaha, NE (Aug. 28, 2019) – Habitat for Humanity of Omaha launched its Registered Apprenticeship Program today furthering efforts to create stability for Omaha residents. Offered in collaboration with Metropolitan Community College, the Apprenticeship Program has received the U.S. Department of Labor’s approval.

“Community strength and individual empowerment are fundamental outcomes of Habitat Omaha’s work to build quality, affordable homes,” said Amanda Brewer, Habitat Omaha Chief Executive Officer. “Our new Apprenticeship Program allows us to continue our commitment to these results through our role as a Nebraska employer.”

“Apprenticeship programs, such as Habitat Omaha’s, strengthen Nebraska’s workforce by connecting residents to the great career opportunities our state has to offer,” said Governor Pete Ricketts. “Apprenticeships also help local businesses and nonprofits in their efforts to recruit and retain skilled talent.”

Participants in Habitat Omaha’s Registered Apprenticeship Program will gain a variety of project manager skills over the course of two years working at the organization’s ReStore locations. Apprentices will receive 4,000 hours of on-the-job learning and classroom instruction, as well as ongoing support from a dedicated mentor on the ReStore staff.



**Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts speaking at Habitat for Humanity of Omaha’s Registered Apprenticeship Program signing ceremony on Aug. 28, 2019.**

“Every day Habitat Omaha employees help better our community by working hard to create quality, affordable housing. We’re honored to be able to support them in achieving their career ambitions through our Apprenticeship Program,” said Elli Aesoph, Habitat Omaha Chief Retail Officer. “Our project manager track was designed based on input from employees to ensure we are providing them with the critical skill-building experiences they need to advance.”

Habitat Omaha plans to further expand its Apprenticeship Program to offer a people manager track for employees seeking to take on leadership responsibilities.



**Habitat for Humanity of Omaha's first apprentice, Anna Keeney (center), signing documents during the Registered Apprenticeship Program signing ceremony on Aug. 28, 2019.**

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### **About Habitat for Humanity of Omaha**

Founded in 1984, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha is a grassroots organization that builds and renovates houses, forges community partnerships and breaks down barriers. We develop vacant lots and eliminate abandoned homes in blighted areas of North and South Omaha while improving the overall appearance of our community. Habitat Omaha homebuyers are required to complete up to 350 hours of sweat equity before purchasing their homes through 20-to-30-year affordable mortgages. Since 1984, Habitat Omaha has partnered with more than 1,600 families; this year we will impact the lives of more than 200 families in the Omaha area. In 2019, Habitat Omaha will build or renovate more than 50 homes and complete more than 150 home repair or improvement projects. For more information, visit [habitatomaha.org](http://habitatomaha.org).

### **About Metropolitan Community College**

Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable, quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 unique credit and noncredit students.