



**David Polk**  
**President**  
**National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship  
Directors (NASTAD)**  
**New Berlin, Wisconsin**

David Polk, the current director of Wisconsin Apprenticeship, was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and started his career as an apprentice. After high school, David went through a plumbing apprenticeship program in Milwaukee at Plumbers' Local 75. He completed his plumbing apprenticeship in 2001. David spent time as a plumbing inspector for the city of Milwaukee, where he enforced the Wisconsin plumbing code for ten years. During his tenure, he returned to school and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration from Cardinal Stritch University in 2010. By 2017, David had transitioned to the director of apprenticeship and trade at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC). While there, he piloted creative and innovative apprenticeship models, including the nation's first arborist apprenticeship, which continues to thrive as Wisconsin's fastest-growing apprenticeship. David is steadfast in his current role as Director of Wisconsin Apprenticeship, as the grandson of Wisconsin's first African-American union plumbing apprenticeship completer. David was recently recognized as one of Wisconsin's most influential Black leaders by the Madison 365 news publication in January of 2023. He served on the executive board of Secure Futures in 2022, which is a nonprofit that provides financial literacy to teens. In 2023, he was selected as an advisory board member of the Council for Adult Experiential Learning, which is a national nonprofit that works to assist adult learners through their navigation between education and employment. David was honored as an unsung hero for the city of Milwaukee during the 2024 Black History Month celebration for the city of Milwaukee. As of August 2024, David Polk serves as president of the National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors (NASTAD).