IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dataseam and Safal Partners Expanding IT Registered Apprenticeship Opportunities in Kentucky

LOUISVILLE, KY (May 6, 2025) - Dataseam announced today a new initiative with Safal Partners, the U.S. Department of Labor (U.S. DOL) national Industry Intermediary for Cybersecurity and Tech Apprenticeship, to strengthen student pathways to the Information Technology (IT) industry through Registered Apprenticeship and build partnerships between businesses and educators to create a stronger workforce pipeline.

Dataseam sponsors a U.S. DOL-approved competency-based Information Technology (IT) Registered Apprenticeship program in participating high schools. The two-year program provides high school juniors and seniors with the opportunity to train to support enterprise-level IT needs. Apprentices complete the relevant coursework and paid on-the-job learning under the supervision of an experienced mentor. Program completers are equipped and qualified to successfully enter the IT workforce directly upon high school graduation, pursuing meaningful, family-sustaining employment.

Registered Apprenticeship is a proven method for recruiting, training, and retaining a stronger and more skilled workforce. According to U.S. DOL, 97 percent of companies with programs recommend them as a talent solution and report an average $1.44 return on investment for every $1.00 invested. In addition to earning a nationally recognized portable credential, Registered Apprenticeship program completers earn on average over $300,000 more than their non-apprentice peers during their careers.[1]

"Dataseam is thankful to the Kentucky Career Center's Office of Employer and Apprenticeship Services for connecting Safal Partners to our efforts," said John Soward, Dataseam Apprenticeship Initiatives Director. "Safal's assistance and resources will continue to bolster the experience these apprentice candidates receive as part of the experience."

As the U.S. DOL Industry Intermediary assigned to cybersecurity/technology industry sector, Safal Partners has worked with staff at the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet, which serves as the Commonwealth's State Apprenticeship Agency, since 2021 to support Registered Apprenticeship expansion.

"We are glad to be a part of Dataseam's solution set, building upon the successes and progress they have made preparing young Kentuckians for the workforce," said Katie Adams, Safal Partners Chief Delivery Officer. "Our deep bench of apprenticeship experts have helped build

hundreds of Registered Apprenticeship programs within the past four years and registered more than 3,000 apprentices in cyber and tech occupations. We look forward to bringing the same support to bolster Dataseam's efforts in growing Kentucky's IT workforce."

[1]*Source:* *apprenticeship.gov*

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About Safal Partners

Safal Partners is a mission-driven consulting firm working at the nexus of education and workforce. The firm serves the U.S. Department of Labor in expanding and modernizing registered apprenticeship through several DOL contracts and grants, including as the DOL National Industry Intermediary.

About Dataseam

Dataseam provides education and workforce development opportunities to 59 participating Kentucky K-12 public school districts as part of research computing infrastructure advancing Kentucky-based innovation and commercialization. More information at www.dataseam.org