SA IT and Cyber Security Grantees participated in the April 2020 monthly industry discussion. Though facing challenges as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, they continue to strategize and innovate to move their grants forward. During this month’s meeting SA grantees discussed:

- **Current positive aspects** of grant implementation including: working with employers to brainstorm approaches to place apprentices, collaborating within their local community college system to develop new strategies for apprentice recruitment, and transitioning curricula online successfully.
- **Strategies for addressing challenges** presented by the COVID-19 crisis including:
  - Moving new and recurring meetings online to maintain project communications
  - Using virtual platforms to conduct larger meetings planned such as employer events
  - Reassuring employers and partners who are feeling reticent about participating in an apprenticeship program
  - Employing creative formatting for technical courses. Some courses requiring labs have students schedule one-on-one lab time with instructors after they have completed content virtually.
- Plans for working with and **recruiting special populations** such as veterans and spouses of veterans, individuals who were incarcerated, and people with disabilities.
- **The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on employer utilization** of apprentices, including increased need for apprentices with IT & Cybersecurity specializations, as there has been an increase in virtual platforms.
- **IRAPs** and plans for incorporating them into their grants.