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To: GOED Board Members

From: Director Thomas J. Burns

Date: March 8, 2024

Subject: Director's Report

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- GOED unveiled its new branding and website redesign on February 1st. This marks a milestone in aligning GOED's digital presence with its strategic objectives outlined in our comprehensive state plan focusing on Nevada's Electric, Innovative, and Connected Future. We extend an invitation to all interested parties to explore the new website at: www.goed.nv.gov.
 - This month we released the Southern Nevada Regional Industrial Study, a report prepared by UNLV's Brookings Mountain West, Center for Business and Economic Research, and their Transportation Research Center. The report addresses challenges in Southern Nevada such as an overconcentration of employment in low-wage and low productivity occupations, a substantially lower share of manufacturing jobs, and siloed economic development strategies and offers a framework to develop, fund, and govern regional industrial development. I want to thank GOED Board Member, Dr. Kris Sanchez for spearheading the study while he was in our office. The report can be found on our website.

Innovation Based Economic Development:

- After months of intensive work, the University of Nevada Reno submitted its EDA Tech Hub Phase 2 application for a potential \$75M award following its selection as one of only 31 out of an application pool of nearly 400 as a Tech Hub Designee in October 2023. In early February, the State Legislature's Interim Finance Committee approved a Governor-supported \$7.5 million match.
- The Nevada Tech Hub's vision is to establish Nevada as the nation's center for innovation across the lithium batteries and other electric vehicle (EV) materials supply chain, foster heightened efficiency, cooperation, and competition across the entire

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- The proposal consists of seven interrelated project areas (*Supply Chain Enhancement; Workforce Development; Lithium Campus; Commercialization and Entrepreneurship; Infrastructure, Community Capacity, and Housing; Nevada Native Nations Center; Governance and Risk Mitigation*). Combined, these component projects will organize the industry-support ecosystem and close identified 'gaps' in the value network and supply chain of this emerging industry sector by supporting broad business creation, attraction, retention, and expansion efforts across the emerging lithium economy throughout the Hub region spanning 16 counties.
- GOED has played an instrumental role in the development of the application and upon possible award will lead, as primary sub-awardee, two component projects: Karsten Heise, Senior Director Strategic Programs & Innovation, is leading 'Commercialization and Entrepreneurship' after being part of the original writing team that landed the EDA Tech Hub Designation, and Bob Lucey, State Infrastructure Coordinator, is leading 'Infrastructure, Community Capacity, and Housing'.

Office of Entrepreneurship:

- GOED's newly established Office of Entrepreneurship engaged statewide rural and urban audiences in coordinated regional consultation sessions during January and February. This effort built upon the substantial Main Street laid groundwork. In March, the Office will help activate the communities' strategic goals and review necessary resources for facing future opportunities and challenges.
- Learnings from the consultation sessions included not only widespread acknowledgement of supportive community members, partners, and leadership but also a desire for increased engagement from state offices and elected officials, funding programs, and rural resources.
- All communities highlighted the need for increased coordination and streamlining of licensing and fee structures and requested state leadership in crafting a vision for entrepreneurship together with a statewide online resource portal.
- This work is forming part of the Office of Entrepreneurship's efforts of providing a central voice to small and emerging business needs engaging at all levels to lead it to fruition in advance of making required recommendations to legislature in November

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Workforce Development:

- There are several projects in the WINN pipeline with applications in process for programs at CSN and Great Basin College. Those include nursing expansion, transportation and logistics and data science. We look forward to presenting these applications at the next (May 23rd) GOED Board Meeting.

Film Office:

- In February, the Nevada Film Office partnered with the Entertainment and Sports Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada to host a panel on entertainment law for filmmakers. This is part of a workshop series developed by the Film Office to offer educational opportunities and professional development to the local film community. The event was free and open to the public and attorneys could earn CLE credit for their involvement.
- In the months leading up to the Super Bowl, Las Vegas saw an increase in the number of productions filming in relation to the event. A total of 39 productions spent over \$4.6 million to produce commercials, television specials, documentaries, web series and other media that were directly related to the event. These productions hired a significant number of local crew members and local vendors have reported a considerable increase in revenue as a result.

Rural & Community Economic Development:

- The 2024 CDBG applications were submitted to Zoom Grants on February 16th. A total of 10 applications were received from 6 rural communities totaling \$5,260,075. Review of applications will take place in May.
- The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe has become Nevada Main Street's newest member, approved unanimously by Tribal Council.
- Shari Davis, Director of Rural Economic and Community Development, attended Main Street on the Hill Day in Washington DC. She met with both Senator Rosen and Senator Cortez Masto's offices, as well as Congressman Amodei and staff, Congresswoman Titus

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and staff, and staff for Congressman Horsford, who all have Main Street organizations in their districts. Discussion focused on CDBG, DOT's Thriving Communities Program, and changes to the Historic Tax Credit.

Healthcare:

- GOED Healthcare Industry Specialist, Mr. Vance Farrow, co-hosted a five-company Bioscience Delegation to Southern Nevada. Each of the five companies met with officials from the Cities of Las Vegas & North Las Vegas, UNLV & Roseman University, and stakeholder groups representing the bioscience community in Southern Nevada. Ongoing meetings are still occurring to secure relocation/expansion efforts to build out a much-needed incubation space for innovation grants, technology transfer and commercialization, and job creation.
- Mr. Farrow has also been working with the principals of Infusion for Health, an infusion therapy provider that treats patients with chronic, complex health conditions. Infusion for Health has signed two additional leases to expand their Southern Nevada footprint from three to five locations and will soon expand their Northern Nevada footprint to add a second location this fall in the Greater Reno area.

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