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To: GOED Board Members  
From: Director Thomas J. Burns  
Date: July 25, 2024  
Subject: Director's Report

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### General

- In June, the Governor's office along with GOED hosted an economic summit in Las Vegas where economic development agencies and leaders were invited to assess and address economic strengths and weaknesses in the state, aiming to enhance strategic initiatives moving forward.
- Work from our office helped Nevada win a 2024 Silver Shovel Award from Area Development Magazine, an accolade recognizing state economic development agencies that have achieved significant success in attracting new business investment and job creation. GOED-assisted company Redwood Materials, whose battery materials facility in Storey County will contribute \$1.1 billion in capital investments in Nevada's economy, was cited by Area Development as an important element to winning the award.
- GOED continues to build out elements of the five-year comprehensive state plan, most recently, in the areas related specifically to the water sector. This is a collaborative effort between SRI, WaterStart and Nevada Water to develop water policy for economic development. This work will place Nevada in the forefront of having economic development policy that strategically and intentionally manages this critical resource.
- GOED is working with DETR and OWINN on building out the states in-demand occupations and the critical alignment between economic and workforce development. These collaborative efforts include updating existing reports to be more user friendly and building out a dynamic data portal that would appear on both the OWINN and GOED future websites.

*Joe Lombardo, Governor*  
*Thomas J. Burns, Executive Director*

**Innovation Based Economic Development:**

- Earlier this month, Nevada secured \$21 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the next phase of the Lithium Loop tech hub. Led by UNR and in partnership with numerous agencies and stakeholders, funding received will help Nevada boost domestic production and manufacturing of crucial technologies. This is a big win for the state. This compliments ongoing work and collaborations with the EDA in developing local Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy plans and Development Districts. These assets enhance our eligibility for EDA grant opportunities.
- Following approval by the Nevada Board of Examiners, GOED launched a program based on the Individual Career Mapping and Training Delivery Model developed under Tammy Westergard's leadership. This innovative program focuses on minority and women populations, leveraging Nevada's public library networks to enhance access to career exposure, skill assessments, training programs, and employer connections. Funded with \$1,559,500 from a 2019 Attorney General's settlement with T-Mobile, the program aims to close career navigation and training gaps for underrepresented groups.
- NSF Engines timeline was released in the NSF Regional Innovation Engines Program Solicitation and the Development Award Team "Advancing the circular economy for lithium batteries" submitted its letter of intent on June 18 and will submit its associated preliminary proposal by August 6. If invited, the full proposal would be due on February 11, 2025. GOED's Karsten Heise is co-PI on the project. Currently, the team is conducting intensive weekly strategy sessions to prepare for the proposal narrative writing stage.

**Office of Entrepreneurship:**

- The Office of Entrepreneurship continues to work with Regional Development Authorities to review the identified community issues and small business education and financing. Working groups have been established with Nevada's System of Higher Education, Secretary of State, and Lieutenant Governor's Office of Small Business Advocacy.

**Workforce Development:**

- At the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2024) there were 12 WINN grants awarded across four NSHE partner institutions (College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin College, Truckee Meadow Community College and Western Nevada College) that will be able to deliver training to 1,500 people by the end of FY25.
- Great Basin College in Elko signed a workforce development partnership with NORCAT, an Ontario-based innovation center to address workforce shortages and advanced mining training programs.
- A little under \$3 million remains in WINN Fund for awards to continue through fiscal year 2025.

**Film Office:**

- \$10.5 million in film tax incentives were approved for several productions that will grow the local economy and hire hundreds of Nevada residents for cast and crew. Highlights include a TV series with actors Seth Rogen and Bryan Cranston, and the first season of a new game show hosted by Shaquille O'Neal.

**Rural & Community Economic Development:**

- The Community Development Block Grant office has awarded \$2.9 million to community development projects in Ely, Lincoln, Nye and Washoe. Governor Lombardo sent out award letters to each community for their projects and grants started July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Healthcare:**

- GOED co-sponsored a Southern Nevada delegation to the Biotech Innovation Organization International Convention in San Diego, hosting over 120 meetings with bioscience companies from all over the world. Multiple leads continue to be pursued, along with several site visits to the region which are a strong indicator of future investment.



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- GOED's Healthcare Industry Specialist Vance Farrow and I traveled to L.A. to tour and meet with the principals of the Transplant Center of the Keck Medical Center of USC last week. We discussed their new transplant center in Las Vegas that will initially focus on heart and liver transplant procedures, but will also include lung, kidney and pancreas transplant procedures as the need arises. We also discussed how best our office can support their expansion through logistical partnerships and associated workforce development needs that will be critical to their success.

#### **International Trade:**

- During the 10th annual SelectUSA Investment Summit, Governor Lombardo announced five international companies' investment and expansion plans in Nevada, showcasing the incredible work of GOED's Regional Development Authorities and economic development organizations in the attraction of new business and growing existing businesses throughout the state.
- Another Canadian company, FTE Drilling, recently made Winnemucca their U.S. headquarters. Thanks to Humboldt County Regional Development Authority Executive Director, Michelle Hammond-Allen for facilitating the project.

**Joe Lombardo, Governor**  
**Thomas J. Burns, Executive Director**