

To: GOED Board Members

From: Tom Burns, Executive Director of GOED



Date: August 7, 2025

Subject: August 2025 Director's Report

Business Development/International Business Development

- GOED's Melanie Sheldon was named Trailblazing Woman of the Year at the 2025 Fastmarkets Voltas Awards. The award celebrates an exceptional woman who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and impact within her industry.
- GOED's Dorian Stonebarger was named a Women to Watch in 2025 by Nevada Business Magazine.
- GOED's Alex Bacchus joined UNR on a delegation visit to Quebec to fortify a recent agreement with the Vallee de la Transition Energetique (VTE) that strengthens academic, research, and economic collaboration in the electric vehicle battery sector. Key areas of cooperation are faculty and student exchanges, startup exchange initiatives, joint research, and mutual support of innovation hubs.
- GOED was joined by Regional Development Authorities (RDAs) and local Economic Development Organizations (EDOs) as they hosted a booth at the annual SelectUSA Summit in Washington DC. GOED generated over 200 leads, including in clean energy, logistics, and semiconductors sectors. Top leads included firms from Italy, Poland, and South Korea, as well as strong momentum from Japan and the U.K.
- Business Development has 23 active projects in the pipeline, with a majority in the manufacturing industry.

Innovation-Based Economic Development

- On May 20-22, UNLV hosted the first ever Futures Engine Summit that brought together corporations, startups, investors, researchers, government, and ecosystem leaders to explore

water, air, and energy technologies related to rapid industry growth, under the National Science Foundation Innovation Engines Program.

At the event, GOED's Karsten Heise, together with Southern Nevada Water Authority, DRI and Waterstart, announced a \$1.8M investment into WaterStart, a Nevada-based nonprofit organization that assists innovative water technology companies and startups with developing, commercializing, and deploying technology more rapidly throughout Nevada and across the globe. This investment demonstrates GOED's commitment to water technology solutions, which are addressing critical challenges facing our state. WaterStart will attract startups, tech entrepreneurs and highly innovative companies in this sector to Nevada and the Southwest, which will enhance place-based innovation, collaboration among stakeholders, and will lead to increased regional economic growth.

- In July, GOED's Tammy Westergard helped lead a workshop in North Las Vegas to train counselors from The Harbor juvenile assessment centers in Individual Career Mapping, a program that teaches Nevadans to navigate the ever-changing world of work. The Harbor will begin offering ICM to an estimated 300 clients in late August as a part of the Harbors 90-day referral process that anchors clients into community services.

Nevada APEX Accelerator

- Nevada APEX continues to help small businesses win government contracts. During the last three-month reporting period, Nevada APEX clients in socioeconomic categories received about \$11.9 million in government contracts.
- For the final report due to the Department of Defense (DoD) on August 8, Nevada APEX's preliminary data show APEX met or exceeded 21 different KPIs.
- On July 14th, the DoD via the Army awarded another formal Cooperative Agreement to GOED for continued Nevada APEX operations.

- Nevada APEX Director Joan Rueben will be inducted into Nellis Air Force Base's Honorary Commander Program at the end of August.
- The Nevada APEX team is happy to announce that Candice Meyers has been hired as the new government contracts advisor. She is based in GOED's Carson City office.

Healthcare

- GOED's Vance Farrow is working with UNLV to build a tri-university alliance with the University of California Berkley and the Technical University of Denmark Entrepreneurship. This alliance will establish a Global Bioinnovation Hub for Health, Longevity, and Entrepreneurship. The alliance will combine academic excellence, cutting-edge research and global market access to develop a transatlantic innovation corridor with powerful implications for education, health, and entrepreneurship.
- Farrow is also working with the principals of the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health to acquire a mobile MRI unit to promote brain health and dementia risk reduction in rural areas through community brain health screenings using portable MRI technology. Additional partners will include the Nevada Rural Hospital Partners and the UNR School of Medicine Project ECHO (Extensions for Community Health Outcomes) program.
- GOED co-sponsored and led a southern Nevada delegation to the Biotech Innovation Organization International Convention in Boston. The Nevada delegation hosted over 80 meetings with bioscience companies from all over the world who were very eager to learn more about our region, growing bioscience ecosystem, workforce pipelines, and available spaces for their expansion considerations. Multiple leads are being pursued, and several follow-up meetings have already been scheduled because of this investment. Delegation partners included LVGEA, UNLV, the City of Las Vegas, and Roseman University School of Health Sciences.

Rural Economic and Community Development

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- \$3 million in Community Development Block Grant funding was awarded to eight projects in rural Nevada. Ely, Fallon, Wells, Elko County, Esmeralda, Lincoln and Nye received funding.
- Main Street Gardnerville, Downtown Reno Partnership and Tonopah Main Street received full accreditation from Main Street America, which recognized these organizations for their strong commitment to economic development and community revitalization in Nevada.
- Strategic planning workshops were held for five additional Main Street organizations. Main Street grant funded projects for FY24/25 have been completed.

Office of Entrepreneurship

- We are pleased to announce that Melissa Saavedra has been hired as the new director for the Office of Entrepreneurship. Saavedra is the former deputy director of the Nevada Lieutenant Governor's Office of Small Business Advocacy (OSBA), where she led efforts to support small businesses across Nevada.
- The Office of Entrepreneurship is actively involved in the upcoming Las Vegas Startup Week and Reno Startup Week happening in September. As part of these efforts, we will be launching the Nevada Business Hub to entrepreneurs, positioning it as a central resource for business support and connectivity across the state.

Workforce Development

- The first WINN program of the new fiscal year has been awarded to TMCC for their Logistics program. This request for \$58,000 will allow TMCC to continue efforts to support the logistics sector in the region and support local employers in their workforce needs. TMCC reports that with this award they will be able to increase enrollment in logistics workforce programs by 10% and confirm at least 75 credentialed graduates for the workforce pipeline.

Film Office

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- The Nevada Film Office has officially rebranded as Film Nevada. Along with the new name, the agency has a new website with a fresh design and streamlined functionality, as well as a new logo that emphasizes its role within GOED. I encourage you to check out their website at: <https://film.nv.gov/>
- “F1: The Movie” is the first feature film to include the new Film Nevada logo in its end screen credits. The film office worked with this production when it filmed during the Las Vegas Grand Prix races in 2023 and 2024, assisting with filming locations, connecting them with local resources, and navigating their various permit and logistical needs.
- Several Nevada-filmed productions were nominated for Emmy awards. “The Studio,” which filmed its two-episode finale in Las Vegas and qualified for the film tax incentive, received a record 23 nominations. Another incentive production, “Queer Eye,” filmed entirely in Las Vegas and received three nominations. “Hacks,” the hit show about a Las Vegas stand-up comedian, partially filmed an episode in Las Vegas and received 14 nominations.
- Film Nevada recently approved three applications for the film tax incentive program. The productions include one independent feature film, one reality series and one documentary series. Together, they are expected to spend \$20.2 million in qualified costs, hire 402 Nevada residents, and have applied for \$3.1 million in film tax credits.