

To: GOED Board Members

From: Tom Burns, Executive Director of GOED



Date: February 5, 2026

Subject: Director's Report

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### **Business Development/International Business Development**

- New national rankings confirm that Nevada is competing at every scale. Area Development's Leading Metro Locations report that came out last month highlights Nevada's strength across both large and small markets, which is a signal that workforce quality, adaptability, and alignment matter more than size alone. Las Vegas ranked #1 for major metro areas, with Carson City ranking #2 for small markets nationwide.
- Two of our RDA's, LVGEA and EDAWN, have partnered to launch the Nevada Economic Developers Association. NEDA will support economic development professionals across the state and serve as a centralized resource for training, certification and professional development.
- In November, GOED led a trade mission to South Korea and Japan to advance partnerships and attract more business to Nevada in support of our key growth initiatives and industries. Four MOUs were signed involving entertainment, intergovernmental relations, foreign investment, and energy production. Churchill Fallon Economic Development (CFED) and GOED recently met with the Korean company BK Energy, which is seeking to establish both manufacturing and green energy production in Churchill County.
- During CES 2026, we joined Next K-Wave Entertainment and Tech Forum with K-EnterTech Hub to strengthen our growing entertainment and technology collaboration with Korea following our trade mission. GOED also met with companies and organizations from countries such as Germany, Poland, Lithuania, India and Japan, which are now looking at Nevada for U.S. market entry.

## **Innovation-Based Economic Development**

- In November, GOED secured \$38.5M in additional funding from the U.S. Treasury for Nevada's small businesses and start-ups through our State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) program, also known as Battle Born Growth.
- GOED's Karsten Heise was appointed to WaterStart's Board of Directors, along with Dr. Sean Mckenna from DRI. This was one of the first projects originally created by the Knowledge Fund, which Karsten manages.
- Nevada was invited by American College Testing (ACT) to anchor its inaugural Regional Summit at UNLV last week, with GOED's Tammy Westergard serving as the opening keynote speaker. The summit spotlighted labor-market literacy as the missing link between education, workforce systems, and employer demand. ACT selected Nevada based on the state's strong statewide testing outcomes and our Individual Career Mapping (ICM) program's evidence-based, scalable approach.
- In December, the Office of Entrepreneurship participated in Recognition Day of The Oddie District in Sparks. The event recognized the future home of the world's largest makerspace, innovation campus, and art park. The Oddie District is a transformational moment for Nevada's innovation landscape. The district is already home to creative and industrial activity through The Generator makerspace, which supports local businesses and nonprofits. When complete, the 232,000-square-foot campus will bring together industrial innovation, robotics, public art and much more in one location.
- In celebration of America's 250th Anniversary, the Office of Entrepreneurship joined Right to Start's "America the Entrepreneurial" campaign as "Nevada the Entrepreneurial" to affirm our belief that every Nevadan deserves the freedom and opportunity to start and grow a business. This commitment aligns with our mission to reduce barriers, strengthen policy, and create an inclusive environment where innovation and small businesses can thrive.

## **Nevada APEX Accelerator**

- Last month, on behalf of 10 APEX Accelerators, Nevada APEX led a regional event at the Clark County Library's Main Theater in Las Vegas. The theme was "Strengthening the Defense Industrial Base via American Ingenuity." There were over 150 people representing government, industry, academia, and non-profit organizations at the event to discuss technology, innovation, and inventions as they relate to ensuring our nation's security.
- As an outgrowth of this event, Nevada APEX will be leading Virtual Innovation Initiative webinars to continue the momentum and information sharing. These webinars will include showcasing APEX small business clients to share best practices that resulted in contract or subcontract award wins.

## **Healthcare**

- GOED's Vance Farrow is actively working with the principals of Florida-based Nova Southeastern University to establish an anesthesiologist assistant program in southern Nevada. NSU has acquired a building in Henderson and is preparing for the inaugural class in June 2026. This opportunity is a direct result of AB270, which passed in the 2023 legislative session and provided for the licensure and regulation of anesthesiologist assistants by the Board of Medical Examiners and the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.
- Vance is also working with the Nevada Health Authority on the federal Rural Healthcare Transformation program and the establishment of a steering committee to inform new healthcare policies and programs. This committee will serve as the primary governance and engagement body for rural healthcare in Nevada.

## **Rural Economic and Community Development**

- Our Nevada Main Street program distributed \$425,517 in grant funding to 31 projects from 20 Main Street organizations across the state. They included a small business incubator,

beautification and public art, signage, branding, banners, events, and more.

- In April, the Community Development Block Grant team will be hosting its first-ever summit in Fallon. It will include a full day of presentations from various funding agencies, with each agency providing an overview of their programs and available funding opportunities for communities.

### **Workforce Development**

- So far in this fiscal term, July 1, 2025 - Jan. 31, 2026, WINN has funded four projects at all four NSHE community colleges.
  - GBC-NORCAT Mine Skills Training Expansion – \$502,500.00
  - TMCC Logistics WINN Program – \$58,000.00
  - CSN – Westside Education & Training Center (WETC) – \$1,571,934.00
  - WNC - Fernley Advanced Manufacturing Training Center – \$599,706.60

Employers who have committed letters of support include: Haas Automation, Penta Building Group, Sunshine Minting, Dolphin Machine, KG Mining, Nevada Gold Mines, Orla Mining, Lithium Americas, 1-Click Logistics, Marvin Windows and Doors, Prime Shippers, Lilac Solutions, Panasonic Energy, and Redwood Materials.

At this time, 60% of the WINN fund has been awarded.

### **Film Nevada**

- Film Nevada recently approved four applications for the film tax incentive program. The productions include two feature films, one reality series and one television special. Together, the productions applied for \$1.6 million in tax credits and will spend approximately \$9.8 million in Nevada on qualified costs.

- GOED's November trade mission to South Korea resulted in new connections for the film department, as an MOU was signed with MBC, one of Korea's leading public broadcasters. The partnership seeks to promote K-content production in Nevada, capturing the economic impact and audience of Korean entertainment and digital content.
- Our office recently welcomed Amira Aboudallah to the Film Nevada team as the Incentive Program Coordinator.