



To: GOED Board Members

From: Tom Burns, Executive Director of GOED

Date: May 14, 2026

Subject: GOED Board Meeting – Director's Report

Business Development/International Business Development

- In March, GOED and the Division of Minerals traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with federal agencies on the importance of critical minerals. Discussions highlighted Nevada's central role and explored potential investment opportunities with conversations currently ongoing.
- It was announced that Nevada's 'Lithium Loop' ranked 5th for innovative economic development this year by Fast Company, recognizing that the state is among the few places building a full battery supply chain.
- Our Senior Business Development Director Melanie Sheldon graduated from the OU Economic Development Institute. This qualifies her to sit for the Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) Exam and the pursue CEcD Designation. EDI is widely recognized as the premier economic development program in the country, and this achievement reflects the kind of leadership and expertise that is driving Nevada forward.
- On April 22nd, the Governor's Office and DETR announced Nevada ranked first in the nation for job growth in 2025. From January 2025 to January 2026, the state posted 1.9% growth, outpacing South Carolina at 1.3% and more than doubling the rate of Arkansas and Missouri, tied for third. This performance reflects real progress in diversifying and strengthening Nevada's economy.
- The recently assembled Nevada Economic Development Authority (or NEDA) championed through the leadership of LVGEA and EDAWN set its first program titled Economic Development 101. Several leaders from GOED participated in this inaugural program and we look forward to continuing our support of this effort.
- In April, GOED staff joined the grand opening of Amazon's new SNV4 in Reno, a first for Nevada, delivery facility offering 1-hour, 3-hour and same day delivery for local customers. Amazon reports that since 2010, it has invested more than \$20 billion in Nevada including



thousands of qualified foreign investors. GOED's participation in this year's summit ensured Nevada had a competitive seat at the table to attract high-value business investment, create jobs, and drive economic growth across the state.

Innovation-Based Economic Development

- In April, Karsten was awarded NNRDA's Recognition Awarded in honor of his service to Nevada. Karsten has dedicated much of his career to helping Nevada become a destination for innovation-based economic development, entrepreneurship, and much more.
- The Individual Career Mapping (ICM) program was successfully implemented in a fully Spanish-language delivery model at the Dolores Huerta Resource Center in North Las Vegas. The launch expands accessibility and strengthens community-based workforce engagement through a city, library, and nonprofit partnership.
- ICM was also integrated at the Elko County School District's special education program. GOED also helped train 15 special education teachers as ICM navigators, with initial classroom implementation already underway, demonstrating early adoption and scalability within school-based workforce pathways.
- 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 GOED's mission to reduce barriers, strengthen policy and create an inclusive environment where innovation and small business thrive.

The marketing campaign begins this summer and will feature local businesses, state/local officials and entrepreneurial support organizations from across the state.

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Nevada APEX Accelerator

- Since the GOED Board meeting on February 5th and through April 27th, the Nevada APEX team has performed government contracting and subcontracting outreach to 423 business owners or representatives. The outreach was achieved through in-person events and meetings or via virtual functions.
- We welcomed Ken Wineberg to the APEX team in late February. He is a seasoned business professional with over 30 years of experience in federal government and public sector sales.

Healthcare

- GOED has been working closely with Roseman University to launch Roseman Bioventures. This entity will be the largest dedicated life science incubator in Nevada, providing startups and emerging companies with turnkey laboratories, research infrastructure, regulatory guidance, and connections to investors and industry partners, accelerating the path to commercialization. Several companies have leased wet lab space in this growing ecosystem, and we now have the capacity to support their growth and expansion with targeted interventions.
- Healthcare Specialist Vance Farrow was recognized in March by the Cure 4 Kids Foundation as one of the 2026 Champions for Children. The award recognizes public servants advocating pediatric patients with cancer, something that Vance has done with real passion and energy over his career.

Rural Economic and Community Development

- The GOED team was proud to support this year's Rural Roundup hosted by Travel Nevada in Elko. Shari Davis spoke at a panel discussion about small rural businesses while Melissa

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Saavedra participated in the Rural Pitch Day Challenge to support innovative ideas and entrepreneurship.

- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) team hosted its first-ever summit in Fallon during Community Development Week from April 6-10. The summit included presentations from various funding agencies, with each agency providing an overview of their programs and available funding opportunities for rural communities. Since 1982, an estimated \$108 million of CDBG funding has been awarded to 18 rural Nevada communities.
- During the CDBG Summit, the Advisory Committee reviewed and evaluated six infrastructure project applications from rural Nevada communities seeking 2026 funding. While \$2.9 million is currently available, requests totaled \$4.3 million. Awarded communities will be announced in July.

Workforce Development

- The Westside Education and Training Center at the College of Southern Nevada held its grand opening in April. The new center provides training for in-demand fields such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare, technology and construction trades that will help participants with pathways directly into career fields and align with college degree programs. The project received approximately \$1.6 million in WINN funding from GOED.

Film Nevada

- During Q1 2026, Film Nevada received 8 applications for the film incentive program. This marks an increase in use of the program, as a typical year yields 10-12 applications. These productions applied for \$6.4 million in tax credits and expect to spend \$53.9 million in the state while hiring nearly 1,500 Nevada residents on a temporary basis.

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- Film Nevada recently launched a partnership with SetJettors, an interactive app that promotes screen tourism, showcasing the filming locations of movies, tv shows and video games. The office has added 20 new Nevada scenes to the app, along with 10 sponsored points of interest, to encourage users to visit the Nevada locations made famous on screen.

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