

To: GOED Board Members

From: Thomas Burns, Executive Director of GOED



Date: Aug. 5, 2026

Subject: GOED Board Meeting – Director's Report

Business Development/International Business Development

- Nevada continues to lead the U.S. in job creation, recording the highest year-over-year job growth of any state for 11 consecutive months. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data released in June, Nevada's total employment grew 1.8% over the past year—the fastest growth rate in the country.
- Our Regional Development Authority EDAWN has officially rebranded as Northern NV Now, reflecting the organization's new identity and continued focus on advancing economic development in the region. GOED congratulates the team on the milestone and looks forward to continuing our efforts to diversify Nevada's economy.
- Loneer, an emerging lithium-boron mining company, signed an MOU with South Korea KIND and Hyundai Engineering to advance the Rhyolite Ridge Lithium-Born Project in Esmerald County.
- The Nevada Ireland Trade Commission, which was created by AB160 in the 83rd legislative session, held its inaugural meeting on July 21. Assemblyman Yeager was elected Chair and Commissioner Kevin Page Vice-Chair. Members received updates from former Nevada Envoy to Ireland Terry Murphy, Sen. Mark Daly, Chair of the Senate of Ireland, and GOED on opportunities to expand trade, investment and collaboration between Nevada and Ireland.
- Northern Regional Director Alex Bacchus attended the Executive Strategic Materials Conference by SEMI in San Jose in furtherance of Nevada's materials innovation and emerging semiconductor industry. The conference brought together semiconductor manufacturers, materials companies, equipment suppliers, researchers, startups, and industry executives to discuss the materials and supply-chain challenges that will determine whether AI-driven semiconductor growth can be sustained.

- GOED-abated company Bitdeer hosted a groundbreaking at their new Sparks advanced electronics manufacturing facility, bringing high-tech jobs to Northern Nevada, and positioning Nevada as part of the emerging domestic supply chain for next-gen computing and digital infrastructure hardware.
- Senior Business Development Director Melanie Sheldon was named Among North America's Top 50 Economic Development Professionals, for 2026, by Consultant Connect. The award recognizes 50 professionals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and effectiveness in driving economic growth and prosperity in their communities.
- Audrey Summers was promoted to Business Development Manager from her former role as Business Development Coordinator.

Innovation-Based Economic Development

- Battle Born Growth, our SSBCI program, has partnered with Build Nevada, an AI-powered platform connecting founders, operators and growth-stage companies to capital infrastructure and expansion opportunities. The platform allows companies to directly engage with Nevada's innovation ecosystem and scale within the state's fastest-growing industries.
- On July 4th, in celebration of America 250, the Office of Entrepreneurship launched Nevada the Entrepreneurial, a yearlong campaign highlighting the people, businesses and organizations that make up Nevada's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Weekly stories will be available on GOED's website and social media channels and will highlight the diverse experiences, challenges and successes of entrepreneurs from every corner of Nevada.
- Candice Meyers joined the Office of Entrepreneurship as its entrepreneurship development manager. Shaq Cruz, formerly the office's entrepreneurship coordinator, was promoted to entrepreneurship data manager.

Healthcare

- GOED continued advancing Nevada's life sciences ecosystem by co-sponsoring a Southern Nevada delegation to the BIO International Convention, facilitating 75 business partnering meetings through the Nevada Pavilion and supporting new growth opportunities at the

Roseman Bioventures campus. Las Vegas was also recognized by BioPharma Dive as an up-and-coming biotech hub to watch.

- GOED supported key healthcare milestones, including the launch of Nevada's first Anesthesiology Assistant master's degree program at Nova Southeastern University–Nevada and the recruitment of Orange Grove Bio, a venture capital firm focused on accelerating the commercialization of innovative therapies through Roseman Bioventures.

Rural Economic and Community Development

- Six Nevada Main Street communities received national accreditation with Main Street America. Gardnerville, Tonopah and Downtown Reno Partnership maintained their designation while Boulder City, MidTown Reno, and Yerington were added. There are now 14 affiliate level Main Street organizations in the state. Affiliate level designations recognize a commitment to creating meaningful improvements to downtown spaces using preservation-based economic development and community revitalization.
- The Rural Economic and Community Development team was proud to support the Office of Federal Assistance's Eureka Grants Summit in Eureka. Jessica Sanders presented on the CDBG program, and Shari Davis spoke on strengthening rural communities through the Nevada Main Street program.
- Over \$3 million in CDBG funds were awarded to seven projects in rural Nevada. The full list of projects can be found [on the GOED website](#).

Workforce Development

- The Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada celebrated its 10th anniversary. Since accepting the first applications in 2016, WINN has invested nearly \$25 million in industry-driven training programs delivered through approved educational partners, including Nevada's four community colleges.
- GOED is working with partner agencies and other workforce stakeholders to host the inaugural Nevada State Workforce Summit in October. Centered on the theme "Alignment. Awareness. Pathways. Partnership.", the summit will bring together industry, education, government, and

community leaders to strengthen collaboration and advance Nevada's workforce priorities.

- The GOED-DETR partnership continues to expand workforce development opportunities. Through the Career Enhancement Program, WINN will leverage additional funding to support economic diversification initiatives following the full award of its \$4 million legislative appropriation.

Film Nevada

- Film Nevada was proud to partner with NBCUniversal and HBO Max to present the finale episode of the TV series "Hacks" as a special community screening. This acclaimed series applied for the tax incentive program for two of its season 5 episodes. Following the screening, producers from the show joined the Film Nevada team to discuss the workforce and economic impact of film and television production in Nevada. According to production representatives, the fifth season employed over 1,100 Nevada residents, supported nearly 300 businesses across the state and injected millions into the Nevada economy.
- In fiscal year 2026, Film Nevada received a record number of applications for the film tax incentive program, with 18 productions applying. These productions are expected to spend a total of \$78.8 million in Nevada on qualified costs, hire over 3,500 Nevada residents and earn up to \$12.7 million in tax credits.

Nevada APEX Accelerator

- GOED was awarded another cost-sharing Cooperative Agreement by the federal government to operate its APEX Accelerator. The agreement's total value is \$923,986 for 12 months. The funds allow APEX team members to provide local, state, and federal government procurement technical assistance to Nevada businesses.
- Cynthia Randall joined APEX's Las Vegas office in June as deputy director. She served 10 years active duty in the U.S. Air Force as a Nuclear Weapons Technician, then worked for aerospace contractors before beginning her civil service career in 2004 with the Air Force.