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NEWS RELEASE

Nevada Selected to Participate in Work-based Learning Policy Academy to Scale Career Opportunities for Young Adults Ages 16-29

Nevada was selected as one of six states to participate in the National Governors Association's work-based learning policy academy, designed to scale high-quality career opportunities for youth and young adults. The Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation for a New Nevada (OWINN) will serve as the lead in partnership with the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT). Sixteen states applied.

"The Policy Academy is a win for Nevada's young adults," said Manny Lamarre, Executive Director of OWINN. "Work-based learning is crucial to providing young adults opportunities to engage in today's labor-market as we are seeing a decline in young adult labor-force participation rate. Employers often express concerns at young adults' career preparedness, but young adults believe employers concerns are a result of the lack of opportunities they have to be exposed to careers by gaining work experience – we applied with the hope of helping to mitigate this disconnect" said Mr. Lamarre.

Funded by the Siemens Foundation, the policy academy will provide technical assistance over 18 months to help states create and expand work-based learning opportunities that will connect youth and young adults, ages 16 to 29, to career opportunities and provide career preparedness skills in STEM-intensive industries (those in the science, technology, engineering and math areas) such as advanced manufacturing, health care, information technology and energy. Through the policy academy, states will share best practices, develop plans to identify and scale high-quality programs and develop policies to support and sustain work-based learning initiatives.

"There are many great STEM careers in Nevada and we want Nevada's students to have broader exposure to the myriad of STEM opportunities available to them" said Brian Mitchell, Director of OSIT. "By 2025, nearly 94% of STEM jobs will require some form of postsecondary training; this policy academy will be a great way for Nevada to leverage strategies to scale work-based learning" said Mr. Mitchell.

Work-based learning provides opportunities for young adults to develop foundational and technical skills by combining educational learning with work experience through internships, pre-apprenticeships and registered apprenticeships and applied learning to better position 16-29 year olds with career and employment opportunities.

Along with Manny Lamarre, members of Nevada's core team are: Brian Mitchell, Director, OSIT; Zach Heit, Senior Economist, OWINN; Erin Hasty, Director of Apprenticeships, OWINN; Frank Woodbeck, Executive Director, Nevada College Collaborative, NSHE; Cory Hunt, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED); Bob Potts, Research Director, GOED; Brett Barley, Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Education (NDE); Kristine Nelson, Education Programs Director, NDE; Dennis Perea, Deputy Director, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR); and Ann Silver, CEO, The Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce.