

October 31, 2017

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Nevada Selected to Participate in the Occupational Licensing Policy and Practice Learning Consortium**

In September 2017, Nevada was selected to participate in the Occupational Licensing Policy and Practice Learning Consortium. Over the next three years, Nevada will engage with 10 other states in a structured, peer learning consortium to share ideas and solutions to complex occupational licensing issues.

“As Nevada continues to rebuild its economy and spur growth, job creation, and worker retention, it is imperative to consider the role of occupational licensing burdens in deterring employment and mobility,” said Assemblyman Nelson Araujo, who was designated as Nevada’s core team leader. “Licensing boards are one of Nevada’s largest economic labor market factors, with 30 percent of the workforce being licensed through occupational licensing boards. I hope by participating in the Consortium, Nevada has an opportunity to collaboratively look at the costs and benefits of occupational regulations, especially for low- to mid-income jobs.”

Four occupations have been identified for study by Nevada’s core team: (1) heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers; (2) plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters; (3) licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses; and (4) nursing assistants. Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Workforce Innovation for a New Nevada (OWINN), Manny Lamarre said, “A key focus will be to look at these occupations as they relate to workforce development. Nevada has a large number of disadvantaged, long-term unemployed or displaced workers, and military veterans. We look forward to reconciling different sets of benefits and challenges across many perspectives to define a workable occupational licensing framework for these occupations.”

The Consortium is supported by the United States Department of Labor, the National Conference of State Legislatures, National Governors Association for Best Practices, and The Council of State Governments. The Consortium begins in October 2017 and finishes in December 2019.

Along with Assemblyman Araujo, members of Nevada’s core team are: Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams; Senator Moises (Mo) Denis; Senator Julia Ratti; Manny Lamarre, Executive Director, OWINN; Dennis A. Perea, Deputy Director, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR); Cathy Dinauer, Executive Director, State Board of Nursing; and Margi A. Grein, Executive Officer, State Contractors’ Board.

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