

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

More Than 600 New Apprenticeship Positions Approved by the Nevada State Apprenticeship Council

LAS VEGAS/CARSON CITY, NV (Feb. 8, 2018) – Members of the State Apprenticeship Council voted to approve the applications of a co-sponsored program with five occupations at the February 6 State Apprenticeship Council meeting. The programs will offer more than 600 apprenticeship opportunities across high-demand industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, and workforce development sectors.

“As we work to build on our state’s economic successes, we have to create opportunities for Nevadans to acquire the skills needed to be effective in the labor market,” said Governor Sandoval. “I am proud of the dedicated work of the State Apprenticeship Council members and OWINN as they create a bridge between our students and the apprenticeship opportunities that will help Nevadans to meet the needs of employers statewide.”

Governor Sandoval and the 2017 Legislature provided resources to align workforce and economic development strategies to provide employers with a 21st century workforce. One strategy was the creation of the Governor’s Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN) to serve as a coordinating agency and to scale necessary workforce strategies to reduce the skills gap.

“Registered Apprenticeships are an effective decades-old workforce development tool that can fill the needs for both employers and job seekers,” said Erin Hasty, State Director of Apprenticeship.

Apprentices are provided structured on-the-job training and mentoring, while also being compensated under a progressive, merit-based, earn-as-you-learn wage system.

“While these programs have been used for decades in traditional industries, employers across different high-growth occupations and industries benefit from the ability to cultivate their talent pools,” she continued.

“By 2024, Nevada will have more than 600,000 available jobs, with approximately half of these jobs being newly created,” said Manny Lamarre, Executive Director of OWINN. “With the current efforts underway in K-12, higher education and the publicly funded workforce system, Nevada is on the right track to not only reduce the skills gap, but to ensure Nevadans have on-ramps to high-quality careers.”

The two newly approved programs are:

Truckee Meadows Community College: Washoe County

Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) is a 2-year public community and technical college located in Reno, Nevada. With today’s approval by the State Apprenticeship Council, TMCC will serve as a program sponsor with employers such as Panasonic, Renown Health, and others across the following occupations: Industrial Maintenance Mechanic, CNC Machine Operator, Production Operator, and Certified Nursing Assistant. “TMCC and the Nevada System of Higher Education is committed to helping businesses across Nevada grow their workforce through Registered Apprenticeships,” said Cheryl Olson, Project Director at TMCC. Panasonic has committed to hiring 500 new apprentices.

Panasonic Energy of North America is proud to be part of this significant step to link our workforce development opportunities to Registered Apprenticeship programs,” stated Kris McLean, Sr. Talent Acquisition Manager. “We want to thank the State Apprenticeship Council, OWINN, TMCC and Governor Sandoval for their leadership in developing our public-private partnership. We look forward to employing and educating many Nevadans as apprentices with Panasonic Energy of North America at the Gigafactory.

Workforce Connections: Clark County

Workforce Connections is Southern Nevada’s local workforce development board, focusing on establishing partnerships with employers and the community to connect job seekers to education, job training and employment opportunities. “As we thought about our workforce needs and the Governor’s bold vision for a New Nevada, we wanted to ensure we have the staff with 21st century skills to support the publicly funded workforce system,” said Jaime Cruz, Executive Director of Workforce Connections. The Workforce Development Specialist apprenticeship program will prepare individuals interested in workforce development careers with the skills they need to succeed.