

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

OWINN AWARDED \$450,000 GRANT TO EXPAND APPRENTICESHIP IN NEVADA

Las Vegas/Carson City, NV (August 7, 2020) – The U.S. Department of Labor awarded the Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN) a \$450,000 grant to help support activities that serve, improve, and expand the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) model, promote system alignment and partnership, and improve data sharing and integrity.

Overall, more than \$80 million in “Building State Capacity to Expand Apprenticeship through Innovation” grants were awarded to 42 states and territories with the aim to support statewide RAP expansion through a funding system that provides the flexibility necessary to address local apprenticeship needs while enhancing employer engagement, performance, and positive outcomes for apprentices. Serving as Nevada’s State Apprenticeship Agency, OWINN will use these additional funds to go beyond just supporting the state’s existing Registered Apprenticeship system.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 are mounting with Nevada suffering the highest unemployment rate of any state. As many people reassess their employment options, apprenticeship can be an attractive opportunity to learn a new skillset without the massive debt associated with traditional education pathways such as college. A robust Registered Apprenticeship system helps develop a skilled and prepared workforce for high-quality, in-demand occupations in fields such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, and logistics and operations.

With this new grant funding, OWINN intends to apply it in several constructive ways. To enhance the systematic infrastructure of Registered Apprenticeship in Nevada, funds will be directed to strengthen Lifeworks, a web portal that will function as a one-stop clearinghouse for both current and prospective apprentices and employers, increasing engagement and understanding of the possibilities Registered Apprenticeship provides.

To promote system alignment for apprenticeship expansion, OWINN will utilize the grant funds to support its partnership with the Nevada Department of Education to support Work-Based Learning Coordinators. OWINN recognizes the level of coordination necessary to support work-based learning activities, including Registered Apprenticeship for both students and job seekers and will focus on a stronger integration between existing Career and Technical Education programs, Registered Apprenticeship, and postsecondary opportunities.

Lastly, to improve data sharing and integrity, OWINN will work closely with the Nevada P-20 Workforce Research Data System to further integrate apprenticeship data and raise public awareness about workbased learning opportunities and Registered Apprenticeship.

“Registered Apprenticeship is the highest form of workforce development. No other model offers so many benefits to both employees and employers alike. The model only works through cooperation and coordination between multiple stakeholders, all focused on shaping apprentices into a valuable and constructive part of the industry. The infrastructure that we are seeking to build will offer employers direct buy-in to how their workforce is trained, while offering apprentices direct paths into prosperity,” said Craig von Collenberg, OWINN’s recent Executive Director.

About OWINN

The Governor’s Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN) helps drive a skilled, diverse, and aligned workforce in the state of Nevada by promoting collaboration and cooperation among key entities focused on workforce development. OWINN works to address Nevada’s workforce needs by leveraging labor-market data, scaling career pathways that leads to industry-recognized credentials, expanding apprenticeships and work-based learning, and designing responsive workforce policies.