

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Ansara Martino, Senior Program Administrator/Officer, OWINN  
(702) 486-8080

PRESS RELEASE

**OWINN ANNOUNCES EXCITING PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY OF MESQUITE TO PROVIDE HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM**

Las Vegas/Carson City, NV (May 17, 2021)—The Nevada State Apprenticeship Council's recent approval of a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Registered Apprenticeship program under the sponsorship of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN) announces an exciting partnership with the City of Mesquite to bring this critically important high-demand occupational training program to its community.

"I am very proud of the collaborative efforts undertaken by OWINN, NSHE, CSN, DHHS, NV Hope, and Highland Manor in this public and private partnership created with the approval of the Certified Nursing Assistant Registered Apprenticeship Program. This partnership will continue to provide high-demand occupational training programs for the City of Mesquite and its surrounding rural communities," said **Governor Sisolak**. "We must continue to invest and support workforce development and training programs like these that aid in the creation of a skilled talent pipeline in our State and further help address the needs of Nevada's rural communities."

COVID-19 exposed many shortcomings in our nation's public healthcare system including a shortage of healthcare workers such as CNAs who serve an essential role in patient-care. CNAs assist medical staff by not only providing physical care for patients but also emotional and spiritual support. The shortage of these crucial healthcare workers is acutely pervasive in Nevada's rural areas with residents bearing the consequences.

Addressing this shortage requires developing the Nevada healthcare workforce talent pipeline especially in rural communities like Mesquite to attract underserved, unemployed, underemployed, or incumbent workers to growing, in-demand healthcare occupations like Certified Nursing Assistant. To help launch this effort in Mesquite, the Department of Welfare and Supportive Services convened multiple partners including OWINN, the College of Southern Nevada, the City of Mesquite, NSHE, NV Hope, and Highland Manor of Mesquite, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center which will also serve as this apprenticeship program's employer partner.

"Governor Sisolak's support of non-construction apprenticeship program development between public and private entities is a key piece of our workforce priorities. Creating opportunities for Nevadans to move into an exciting career in healthcare with a viable pathway is a crucial piece of our post COVID recovery strategy," said Isla Young, OWINN's Executive Director.

The CNA program is an integration of knowledge and skills focusing on the role of the nursing assistant in caring for non-critical patients in skilled nursing facilities. This program prepares graduates to perform basic

nursing and restorative care for patients involving safety, personal hygiene, nutrition, mobility, basic mental health, protection of the patient and the patient's rights, observing the patient, and reporting to the nurse.

The Apprenticeship Program consists of time divided between a lecture class online, a CNA Lab at CSN and clinical classes twice a week at Highland Manor. Traditionally ran as a 16-week class, we are now focusing on the more condensed session of 8 weeks. Limited program funding is available through the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN) and the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE).

Expanding the Registered Apprenticeship model to new fields like healthcare is a proven effective strategy to fill crucial workforce gaps.

"Registered Apprenticeship is one evidence-based workforce development strategy used to meet the needs of businesses and workers, providing programs in which industry professionals and educational institutions partner to align on-the-job training with curriculum and instruction, and providing pathways to develop the skilled workforce Nevada's business and industry leaders demand," said Cheryl Olson, NSHE Apprenticeship Navigator

Explaining the important role, the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) will play in the success of this program, CSN President Dr. Federico Zaragoza said, "Developing partnerships with business and industry to train today's skilled workforce is the essence of a community college's mission — empowering our students and communities to achieve, succeed and prosper. This new Certified Nursing Assistant apprenticeship program will help healthcare workers upskill and fill critical positions in the industry and enhance their careers. I am pleased that CSN is able to provide this service to the Mesquite community."

"Highland Manor is excited to have a CNA Program in Mesquite! We highly encourage and support anyone that chooses a career in Nursing. This CNA program is the first step in that direction. We are grateful to everyone that collaborated to get this program in place," said Tony Martin, Administrator of Highland Manor.

A new CNA cohort will begin in August 2021. For more information and/or to sign up for the CNA program please contact Darlene Montague, CSN Site Coordinator at [Darlene.montague@csn.edu](mailto:Darlene.montague@csn.edu) or call 702-651-4980.

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### **About the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation**

OWINN helps drive a skilled, diverse, and aligned workforce in the state of Nevada by promoting cooperation and collaboration among all entities focused on workforce development. Its chief objectives are to prepare all K-12 students for college and career success, increase the number of Nevadans with postsecondary degrees and credentials, and boost employment outcomes in training and credentialing programs.