

**STATE OF NEVADA
GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 18, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Nevadaworks
9390 Gateway Dr. Ste. 105
Reno, NV 89521

Video Conference Location:

Nevada State Building
Governor's Conference Room - 4th floor
1 State of Nevada Way
Las Vegas, NV 89119

1. Call to Order - Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance

The full board meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2026. The meeting was held at Nevadaworks, and video conferenced at the Governor's Conference Room in Las Vegas.

Chair Soderberg reminded anyone that speaks to identify themselves for the record.

2. Roll Call

Tiffany Vazquez, OWINN called roll and confirmed quorum.

Members Present

Don Soderberg, Chair
Edward Estipona, Vice Chair
Robert Benner
Scott Black, Councilman
Natalie Brown
Irene Bustamante-Adams
Drazen Elez
George Gault
Sarah Johns
Paul Kaplan
Ken Lawson
Tony Machabee
Andrew MacKay
Jerrie Merritt
Rick Neal
Suzanne Oetjen
Nancy Olsen
Dennis Perea, Councilman
John Parel

Marchele Sneed
Humberto Trueba
Michael Yoder

Absent

Aubree Barnum
Susan Brager
Tracy Brown-May, Assemblymember
Louis DeSalvio
Toni Giddens
Haith Johnson
Dina Neal, Senator
Janel Thomas
Jesse Wadhams

Others Present

Kara Abe
Gregory Burks
Amber Burroughs
Rena Drake
Edith Guadarrama
Rawan Hanna
Kimberly Jadidi
Cindy Kendall
Elaine Rodriguez
Milt Stewart
Tiffany Vazquez
Craig Von Collenberg

3. First Public Comment

Chair Soderberg stated, “Members of the public are invited to provide comment at this time. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this public comment period unless the matter has been specifically included on the agenda as an action item. We will impose a three-minute time limit. Please clearly state your name for the record.”

Milt Stewart welcomed everyone and was excited to host the meeting at Nevadaworks.

4. Approval of April 16, 2026, minutes - (For possible action)

Chair Soderberg called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. It was moved by **Vice Chair Estipona** and seconded by **Robert Benner**. The motion carried.

5. Presentation about Home Depot’s Path to Pro Program -
(Discussion/Informational only)

Rawan Hanna, Senior Manager Workforce Development, Home Depot discussed their nationwide Path to Pro program that was launched in 2021 to address the widening skilled labor gap. The program is designed to reduce barriers to entry for the next generation of trades professionals while providing contractors access to ready-to-hire candidates.

They focus on:

- Awareness to educate about long-term trade careers
- Skills Program: Free, Self-paced, virtual training for entry-level foundational knowledge
- The Network: A “LinkedIn for the trades” where job seekers can market their skills and connect directly with contractors using “Pro Xtra” accounts

Vice Chair Estipona asked how the program is being shared from a communications standpoint.

Rawan Hanna responded through paid media marketing, organic social channels, and partnerships with different organizations.

Marchele Sneed asked how Home Depot could partner with trade professionals to increase awareness of trade careers and encourage more people to pursue work in the trades.

Rawan Hanna spoke of their government relations team seeking to integrate these modules into Nevada’s community college and K-12 school systems to build early career interest. She mentioned the kids workshop at Home Depot.

Marchele Sneed asked for examples where Home Depot has partnered with the trades to leverage the brand to bring more people in.

Rawan Hanna responded they have partnered with:

- HBI - hands on training and the OSHA certifications
- Scouts of America - develop youth curriculum
- Pearson - integration with online platform where students can take skill programs within their digital learning platform

Vice Chair Estipona asked for specific data on how much media is being done in Nevada.

Rawan Hanna was unable to provide the data and would be happy to look into it.

Andrew MacKay asked how long it would take for a job seeker or an employer to get online and have information loaded into the portal.

Rawan Hanna responded within minutes, depending on how much information they share. There are templates that can be used in the system.

Irene Bustamante-Adams asked for clarification on how she had been invited to participate and insight into the vision for Nevada and whether Nevada specific data was available, including how the asset was being used and which contractors who are customers were interested in leveraging it.

Rawan Hanna explained that their government relations team had engaged with colleges, community colleges, and education boards to introduce the skills program and explore opportunities to integrate it into curricula as an early pathway into trade careers. They noted that discussions also included potential partnerships for curriculum integration, job placement support, and connecting graduates to a network to assist with securing their first job.

She does not have information on hand for the second question and will provide at a later time.

Rick Neal asked how various workforce-related entities could connect with the organization, noting that many groups support workforce development beyond traditional governmental channels. He inquired whether a mechanism existed for these entities to engage with the program to help increase participant enrollment.

Rawan Hanna mentioned they partnered with several nonprofits, including Hiring Heroes of America and other foundations, and were also working with youth organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters to create workforce development opportunities for young people.

Rick Neal asked how do organizations connect and if it is through their governmental office?

Rawan Hanna responded that people have been reaching out through LinkedIn and through their Path to Pro Foundation. She also mentioned signage and screens in the stores. They also attend conferences such as the International Builders Show to raise awareness.

Suzanne Oetjen noted the program's potential to help upskill existing facilities staff and provide career-pathing opportunities for entry-level employees who wish to remain in the health system but pursue non-clinical roles.

Rawan Hanna welcomed any feedback.

Sarah Johns asked if she had a marketing person she could reach out to. She runs a business-focused lifestyle show and would like to highlight the program.

Rawan Hanna responded she would be the starting point and can loop in their public relations team. She added her email in chat: rawan_hanna@homedepot.com

Nancy Olsen asked if the skills training that is available leads to an industry recognized credential and is a high school diploma or equivalency needed to enter into the skills training?

Rawan Hanna informed the board that a high school diploma or GED is not needed. Individual(s) need to be 16 years of age or older to participate in the skills program and 18 years of age or older to join the network. The skills training are introductions to the trades.

Chair Soderberg thanked Rawan for her presentation and mentioned that getting people pointed in that direction is what is needed.

6. Presentation about Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) Workforce and Community Impact - (Discussion/Informational only)

Amber Burroughs, Director of Workforce Development, Community, and Government Relations, TMCC highlighted the schools regional economic impact, discussing its advanced manufacturing partnerships and the growth of apprentice models. They generate over \$668 million, with 90% of graduates remaining in Nevada. TMCC is expanding their physical and programmatic footprint. They are developing a Fire Rescue Training Center on the south end of Reno to address the critical need for first responders. The Tesla Star Program is doubling its capacity to 1500 students for the upcoming year. In addition, they are utilizing the Panasonic training facility and acquiring "Reactor Way" for advanced manufacturing, construction, and architecture. Construction of the EastView Theatre was also mentioned, a Performing Arts Center for the community and TMCC.

Ken Lawson asked if they were experiencing the struggle in Northern Nevada to find instructors for some of the classes, especially in the manufacturing sector.

Amber Burroughs acknowledged shared challenges in recruiting instructors, particularly in manufacturing and other trade fields, where they can earn more in industry than in the classroom. She explained that a successful model had been partnering with employers like Tesla—who provide part-time or full-time instructors for their programs. Employer advisory board members also occasionally teach courses, and this partnership approach has been essential in addressing instructor shortages.

Tony Machabee thanked Amber for the tour. She had mentioned that 53% of the degree earners at TMCC go to UNR. He asked how much of those credits transfer from TMCC to UNR?

Amber Burroughs clarified that 53% transfer to university, not specifically UNR. Students staying within the NSHE institution graduating with an associate's degree will start at junior level status in the universities in Nevada.

Tony Machabee asked if the Panasonic Training Center is just for employees or anyone interested in battery technology?

Amber Burroughs mentioned that the training facility was initially intended for Panasonic, but it is open to other companies as well. Tesla has conducted trainings there. Panasonic will have first priority.

Tony Machabee asked how many students are going through that training center.

Amber Burroughs noted that 20 students go through on a cohort basis every few months. There used to be a lot more students, but there were many shifts in leadership as well.

Tony Machabee asked about the length of the training course.

Amber Burroughs mentioned the courses are usually 15 weeks long. Shorter terms are available; it just depends on what Panasonic wants to do at that time. The training may be customized.

Tony Machabee mentioned the battery lab. He asked if students are going through the testing lab there and if that is part of the curriculum or a separate piece.

Amber Burroughs noted it depends on the course and what it is focused on.

Vice Chair Estipona asked about the partnership program since apprenticeship is continuing to grow in that region.

Amber Burroughs highlighted Tesla's increase from 100 students to 500 over recent years. Cohorts were running every four weeks with 120 students, resulting in 700 students being trained in the past year. The upcoming year was projected to reach 1,500 students, doubling program capacity. This expansion was made possible through funding partnerships with DETR and Nevadaworks, which were essential for sustaining and scaling apprenticeship efforts.

John Parel added that private industry engagement has increased, with employers requesting additional training support. Program growth raises concerns about funding capacity.

Vice Chair Estipona asked about apprenticeship beyond advanced manufacturing. He asked, “How do we see it getting into some of these other industry sectors that we’re looking at like healthcare?”

Amber Burroughs mentioned it is being worked on at this time. She referred to Milt Stewart to speak on that item.

Milt Stewart reported funding more than 500 Tesla STAR apprentices through multiple funding streams and expected to support at least that many again by year-end. The partnership was a strong collaboration among education providers, the workforce development system, and Tesla, which contributed resources such as instructors. Federal administration across recent years have consistently supported apprenticeship initiatives, reinforcing the value of the earn-and-learn model for educational institutions, employers, and career seekers.

Nevadaworks received a U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Building America grant, allowing them to develop both pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships beyond traditional trades. They work closely with Southern Nevada partners to establish and fund these expanded apprenticeship opportunities statewide.

Tony Machabee asked if a manufacturer is new to the area and needs to hire an apprentice or a particular type of workers, who should be contacted at TMCC and at Nevadaworks?

Amber Burroughs said to call TMCC first. She should be the first contact. If she isn’t the right person, she will know who to connect them with.

Milt Stewart mentioned the Industry Sector Partnerships in collaboration with funding through DETR. You can reach out to DETR or Nevadaworks (same ecosystem) and you will be pointed to the right section.

John Parel added the no wrong door approach. The funding comes through DETR and the training through whatever college there is in that region.

Milt Stewart highlighted the investment DETR is making to both local workforce development boards around Industry Sector Partnerships. There will be a curated menu of services that are available to industry sector partners (*public work personnel system, connections with the training facilities, TMCC input around curriculum skills, etc.*).

Tony Machabee asked for clarification on who does the new business call, who do they connect to.

Milt Stewart noted that Ryan Hogan, Industry Engagement Specialist, can be contacted.

Chair Soderberg thanked Amber for the tour and presentation. He noted how much the site has grown and evolved. Many participants are gaining access to stable, well-paying jobs without needing advanced degrees.

7. Workforce Pell Overview and the Board’s Role - (Discussion/Informational only)

Marchele Sneed, Executive Director, OWINN and Natalie Brown, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Community Colleges, NSHE gave a high-level overview of the Workforce Pell grant, a federal initiative expanding financial aid to include short term, non-degree training programs effective July 1st.

All Programs must be offered by accredited, Title IV-eligible providers and demonstrate a positive return on investment. Programs must have operated in their current form for at least one year before applying and meet all federal and state requirements. In Nevada institutions must have a data sharing agreement in place with the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation at least 12 months prior to submitting their program to OWINN for approval.

To ensure funding supports programs aligned with workforce needs, certain programs and conditions are excluded including remedial, ESL, correspondence, study abroad courses and programs offered by unaccredited institutions.

Below is the Program Eligibility Requirement:

- 150-599 clock hours (credit equivalent)
- At least 8 weeks but less than 15 weeks
- Must be on the ETPL list
- High-skill, high-wage, or in-demand sector/occupation in Nevada
- 70% completion rate
- 70% placement rate
- Tuition and fees cannot exceed value added earnings (*adjusted median earning - 150% of the federal poverty guideline*)

The Workforce Pell application process will be administered in **two distinct phases**. *Phase 1* will begin on July 1, 2026, and will be limited to institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). *Phase 2* will subsequently expand eligibility to all non-credit training programs. Implementing a phased approach ensures that the initial review period is used to evaluate, refine, and strengthen application procedures prior to broader statewide implementation.

Approval of Workforce Pell programs occur through three primary levels of oversight:

1. The college or training provider must be a Title IV-eligible institution and fall within the institution's accredited offerings
2. OWINN, on behalf of the Governor, will ensure alignment with labor market needs and recognized credential requirements. This also includes approval through the Governor's Workforce Development Board before the Governor's final approval.
3. After the state's approval, the final authority rests with the U.S. Department of Education.

Information for Workforce Pell can be found on the OWINN website <https://owinn.nv.gov/workforce-pell/#>. All Workforce Pell Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted via email to nvworkforcepell@detr.nv.gov

John Parel asked for thoughts on the current ETPL list. Would different tiers or levels need to be created?

Marchele Sneed added that the programs will have to be on the ETPL list. Some of the college programs are already on the ETPL.

Natalie Brown mentioned that over 200 NSHE programs are currently on the list, but not every one of those programs will meet eligibility for Workforce Pell.

Vice Chair Estipona spoke on the challenges of tracking placements. He asked if there was a federal mandate in place.

Marchele Sneed stated that we don't have the data infrastructure in place to capture that information, Initially, program staff will be required to follow up.

Natalie Brown mentioned using the program as a catalyst to request enhanced wage record data Nevada collects sector-level employment data but lacks the occupation-level data required for workforce health reporting. A cross-agency team, including all NSHE community colleges, has submitted a grant application to support data collection and outreach over the next four years. The state is exploring closer collaboration with NPWR partners and potential legislative options to address current data gaps. These efforts could also help secure enhanced wage record data, including cross-state information.

Marchele Sneed added it will take legislation and data infrastructure.

John Parel noted that DETR is in the process of modernizing a case management system. He inquired about ways to track everything.

Vice Chair Estipona reports his hires on a monthly basis to the State of Nevada; minimal information is required. He doesn't want to see any of the institutions being disqualified from getting the Pell Grant again. He suggested going for industries that are true partners until others can report better.

Natalie Brown highlighted the importance for institutions to coordinate with local workforce boards, employer partners, and industry sector groups to determine program needs and ensure alignment. Some existing programs may qualify, and institutions submitting them understand the outreach required during this interim period before state-level data infrastructure is in place. While opportunities are open, the qualifications and processes will be restrictive early on as the framework is developed.

Ken Lawson asked about the wage criteria and what is considered a good or high paying job.

Natalie Brown informed the wage criteria is 150% of the poverty level nationally. She will look up what that wage dollar amount is and get back to him. On the other hand, the cost of the program cannot exceed the earnings potential that the student can earn.

Chair Soderberg requested tfor details to be sent to all the board members to get some type of instructions a few weeks ahead of time to know what the role is, how to approach these items, and what to look for in order to vote properly

Marchele Sneed noted that OWINN would send out ahead of time. GWDB members would need to read through the coursework and see if it aligns.

Tony Machabee asked for information on the time frame we are looking at before GWDB members will need input.

Marchele Sneed noted that the board's role will come into play once programs have submitted their applications. After oversight from NSHE, OWINN, and the local boards, the program will present to the GWDB. Board members will get the material prior to the meeting.

Tony Machabee asked if the board will vote this year.

Marchele Sneed responded that GWDB could potentially vote this year since the schools do have the application. It depends on when the program is submitted.

8. New Business from Full Board Members - (Discussion/Informational only)

Marchele Sneed announced OWINN's 2026 Nevada Workforce Summit that will be held October 27–28 at the Durango Casino and Resort. Save-the-date notices have been distributed, and the office is seeking business sponsorships to support the event and advance statewide workforce solutions. Sponsorship packages are being shared with board members, who are encouraged to help identify potential sponsors and promote attendance.

9. Second Public comment

There were none.

10. Adjournment

Chair Soderberg called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by **Vice Chair Estipona** and seconded by **John Parel**. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.