



NEWSLETTER



Program Year 2017
Issue 2 November, 2016



Visit: stemhub.nv.gov

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Year of STEM</i>	1
<i>Points of Interest</i>	1
<i>Library Partnerships</i>	2
<i>Computing Careers</i>	2
<i>Partner Spotlight</i>	2

Special points of interest:

- **STEM Occupations and Salaries report, there will be a 34 percent increase in professional, scientific, and technical services employment by 2018.**
- **Median salaries for Nevada STEM jobs are \$37.34/hour versus \$17.70/hour for non-STEM.**
- **The demand for STEM trained professionals in Nevada is growing by 14%, versus 10% for non-STEM jobs.**

Workforce Connections
6330 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 150
Las Vegas, NV 89146
Phone: 702.638.8750
Fax: 702.638.8774
www.nvworkforceconnections.org

**Connecting Employers
to a Ready Workforce**

*An equal opportunity employer/
program
Auxiliary aids and services available
upon request for individuals with
disabilities
Relay 711 or (800) 326-6868*

GOVERNOR SANDOVAL LETTER PROCLAIMS 2016-2017, “YEAR OF STEM”

Why STEM in Nevada?

Nevada faces a serious workforce shortage in industries that demand skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Too few Nevadans consider STEM careers, in large part because they are not exposed to STEM education as students. Nevada’s future depends on its students being prepared to meet a wide variety of challenges. Those who have a solid foundation in real-world problem solving and experimentation, the bedrock of a rigorous STEM education, become confident, critical thinkers with the creativity to find solutions to the challenges they face. No matter the career pathway they pursue after high school, all students benefit from the skills learned in STEM.”

—Brian Mitchell, Director,
Nevada State Office of Innovation, Science and Technology

Growing demand

STEM industries in Nevada, like advanced manufacturing, IT, cyber security, energy and agriculture, are growing faster than non-STEM industries.

Beyond the growing demand from marquee employers like Tesla, Faraday Future and Switch, there are hundreds of other Nevada companies that need workers with STEM skills as well. Companies like CalRamic Technologies, Sierra Nevada Corporation and Server Technology are just a few of those doing business in Nevada that require employees with science, technology and engineering training.

Ability to make a difference
STEM offers our kids exciting career opportunities that afford them the opportunity to make an impact on their community and the world. Creating new products, solving ecological challenges, improving how we live—those pursuing STEM careers can make a difference in the world.

Grow your brain

Technology changes and evolves constantly. Scientific discoveries constantly force us to reevaluate our ideas about how the world works. In a STEM career, you will be challenged to think critically on a daily basis.

Make more money

On average, new STEM graduates earn more than graduates from other fields. Half of the available jobs in STEM industries do not require a four-year degree. The average wage of sub-baccalaureate STEM jobs is more than \$50,000 per year, nearly 50 percent higher than that of non-STEM jobs with similar education requirements.

STEM education seeks to:

Raise Awareness in STEM

Building awareness and stronger understanding of what careers are available for those with STEM skills and what the State is doing to prepare individuals for those careers.

Reduce the Skills Gap

Job requirements in the new Nevada economy will likely have a greater focus on STEM skills and encourage the study of STEM skills

Increase Equity and Access

Have a presence of individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM careers to serve as mentors to inspire individuals to study STEM.

By Mari St. Martin, Communications Director
Office of the Governor.

VOLUNTEER TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT

Experiencing skills gaps or lacking job experience creates difficulty in finding employment. Volunteering is definitely a route to gain the experience and/or skills an employer seeks from a candidate.

Another benefit of volunteering is that the probability of employment increases by 7% for those who volunteer between 20 and 99 hours annually.

The current wave of obtaining employment through networking allows volunteers to expand their network to 80% of positions being filled.

Added value to volunteering is the opportunity to participate in career exploration before spending unnecessary dollars for training or school.

Lastly, volunteering allows an

individual to obtain necessary and important soft skills such as communication, team work, decision making, leadership and time management.

Many companies are seeking individuals who have volunteered. A LinkedIn survey found that 25% of hiring decisions were based on volunteer work.

Smart Careers for a Digital Future

Computers are fun and cool, but they also open doors to interesting, creative, and fulfilling careers.

Job growth rates for computing professions from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (US-BLS) show computing occupations are to grow rapidly over the next decade; as much as 21% - 54%. US-BLS foresees nearly 3 of 4 new science or engineering jobs in the U.S. are going to be in computing.

What kind of computing occupations exist in the market?

- Information Technology
- Software Engineers
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Information Systems

What fields integrate computing occupations?

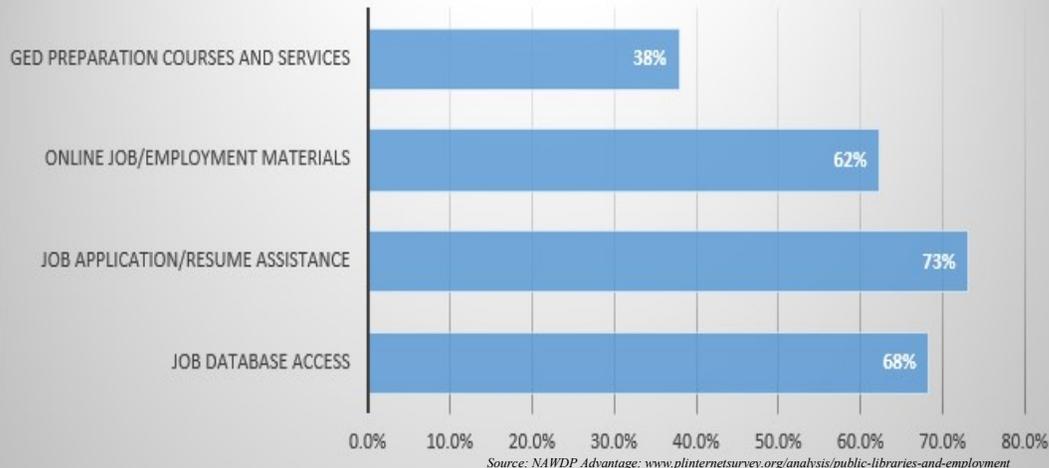
- Mobile Devices/Social Media
- Gaming/Virtual Gaming
- Digital Media and Entertainment
- Online Search and Advertising
- Medical Imaging

Top 10 Reasons to Major in Computing

1. Computing is part of everything we do!
2. Expertise in computing enables you to solve complex, challenging problems.
3. The skill enables one to make positive differences in the world.
4. Computing offers many types of lucrative careers.
5. Computing jobs are here to stay, no matter one's location.
6. It helps build skills within your primary career.
7. It offers great opportunities for creativity and innovation.
8. It allows for collaboration or individual effort.
9. It is essential to well-rounded academic preparation.
10. Future opportunities are without boundaries.

Source to Association for Computing Machinery ACM.

Public Libraries and Employment Services



MAKE YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY YOUR NEXT PARTNER.

Access to career skills training and public assistance programs. Help navigating state and local job databases, and completing online job applications. One-on-one assistance creating effective cover letters and resumes. Workforce development professionals offer valuable services like these to empower job seekers everyday. But often the needs of local communities are greater than the resources available to scale up these services. The good news is that workforce development boards aren't on their own. Increasingly, people are receiving employment assistance and job skills training from another trusted institution in their communities: their local libraries.

Of the more than 1,650 public libraries across the country, nearly all of them offer some kind of workforce development program. With meeting spaces, computers and other equipment, wireless internet, extended hours of operation, and dedicated professional staff, public libraries are community anchor institutions that offer

scalability, infrastructure, and access to resources needed to advance a highly skilled workforce in the digital economy.

The time is right for strategic partnerships between local workforce boards and libraries. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed in 2014, specifically designates public libraries among the available partners for American Job Centers (AJCs).

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration advised state workforce agencies and American Job Centers that "collaboration with public libraries can increase the quality and the quantity of access points for individuals to receive needed career information and assistance." From training library staff on virtual and in-person state employment resources to co-locating American Job Centers to leveraging digital literacy activities offered by libraries, opportunities for collaboration abound.

Source: NAWDP Advantage: www.plinternetsurvey.org/analysis/public-libraries-and-employment

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT **OLIVE CREST**

Amy Licht, program manager for Olive Crest's Project

Independence, and her team view STEM as a pipeline to future learning and exposure to careers that, prior to exposure, would have been overlooked.

The youth would not have thought twice about looking for a career in a STEM field. The staff participates in STEM activities along with their

participants and notes that having STEM activities monthly helps keep youth engaged while having fun learning and giving back to their communities. The youth of Project Independence also play games to learn about Financial

Literacy, then translate what they experienced in the game to their personal lives.



Strong Families, Safe Kids

One of the activities Project Independence provided was visiting Vegas Roots, where youth learned about agriculture and gardening. In an upcoming trip to Nellis Airforce Base youth will learn about aerodynamics, aircraft construction, and speak with airmen. At the end of the day, they will get to see a live air show.

For more information on Olive Crest's Project Independence's STEM activities, please contact Amy Licht :

(Phone): 702-853-4212

(Email): amy-licht@olivecrest.org

All sources and articles are available upon request