



*workforce* **CONNECTIONS**  
PEOPLE. PARTNERSHIPS. POSSIBILITIES.



# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Southern Nevada's  
One-Stop  
Delivery System





# Leadership & Governance

## LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS (LEO) CONSORTIUM

**Olivia Diaz, Chair**  
Councilwoman  
City of Las Vegas

**Michelle Romero, Vice Chair**  
Mayor  
City of Henderson

**William McCurdy II, Vice Chair Elect**  
Commissioner  
Clark County

**Scott Black**  
Councilman  
City of North Las Vegas

**Ron Boskovich**  
Commissioner  
Nye County

**Mathew Fox**  
Councilman  
City of Boulder City

**Varlin Higbee**  
Commissioner  
Lincoln County

**De Winsor**  
Commissioner  
Esmeralda County

## WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS (WC) BOARD

**Jerrie Merritt, Chair**  
Bank of Nevada

**Eric Schmacker, Vice Chair**  
SilverSummit Health Plan

**Hugh Anderson**  
Hightower Las Vegas

**Leo Bletnitsky**  
Health Technology Solutions, LLC

**Gina Bongiovi**  
Bongiovi Law Firm

**Ben Daseler**  
Employment Security Division,  
Department of Employment,  
Training and Rehabilitation

**Lou DeSalvio**  
Southern Nevada Laborers Local  
#872

**Drazen Elez**  
Vocational Rehabilitation Division,  
Department of Employment,  
Training and Rehabilitation

**Dasya Duckworth**  
Motional, Inc

**Peter Guzman**  
Latin Chamber of Commerce

**Dr. Jesus Jara**  
Clark County School District

**Guy Martin**  
Martin Harris Construction

**MJ Maynard**  
Regional Transportation Commission  
(RTC) of Southern Nevada

**Valerie Murzl**  
People Culture Consulting, LLC

**Darlene Navarro**  
Vegas Golden Knights

**Derek Parent**  
Movement Fitness

**Geremiah Robnett**  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 88

**Tina Quigley**  
Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance (LVGEA)

**Mary Beth Sewald**  
Vegas Chamber

**Kelvin Watson**  
Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

**Tommy White**  
Southern Nevada Laborers Employers  
Cooperation Education Trust (LECET)

**Dr. Federico Zaragoza**  
College of Southern Nevada



# Community Impact

In 2023, Workforce Connections (WC) expanded its efforts to align community resources by leveraging partnerships with local economic development agencies and chambers of commerce to increase business engagement. In addition, WC continued its commitment to leveraging data and technology to enhance workforce development initiatives in Southern Nevada. A key highlight was the introduction of the Community Investment Impact Dashboard. This dynamic tool serves as a gateway to effectively communicate the value proposition of workforce development investments to diverse stakeholders. By combining WIOA Title I service data with financial records, the dashboard provides tangible outcomes from strategic investments in skill acquisition and career-building. The dashboard offers customizable filters for enhanced insights, empowering users to tailor results based on various criteria. The dashboard's significant contributions include fostering transparency, enabling data-driven decision-making, and simplifying return on investment (ROI) calculations. Furthermore, its flexibility and expandability ensure widespread accessibility and usability.

In the most recent program year, WC's WIOA Title I programs saw a

**\$22.7M**

**investment**

in employment and training programs providing: Classroom training, on-the-job training, wrap-around supportive services, paid work experiences, and more. As a result,

**3,266**

**individuals**

completed our WIOA Title I programs, with a

**76%**

**employment rate**

and

**\$79.4M**

**in annualized wages**

The annualized wages of \$79.4M "pay back" the investment of \$22.7M in

**3.4 months**



# National Recognition

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) 2023 Pinnacle Award for Business Development Award was presented to Workforce Connections (WC) and the Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR) at NASWA's 2023 Winter Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. This award is bestowed upon a partnership demonstrating excellence and innovation in the area of employer engagement. WC and DETR received the award for the EmployNV Business Hub model, which are American Job Centers in Nevada specifically designed and staffed to meet the needs of employers.



# EmployNV Hubs

Building on the success of the first EmployNV Youth Hub at the West Charleston Library, WC, in collaboration with the North Las Vegas Library District and a private business, opened two additional EmployNV Youth Hubs at the Alexander Library and Movement Fitness. The EmployNV Youth Hub at Movement Fitness, the first American Job Center in the nation to be hosted within a private business, opened in July in East Las Vegas. The expansion continued with the EmployNV Youth Hub at Alexander Library, providing no-cost career resources for young adults in North Las Vegas. The new hubs offer workshops, one-on-one support, and innovative technology to introduce youth to in-demand careers. Additionally, the EmployNV Career Hub at Casa Grande Transitional Housing, a Nevada Department of Corrections facility, opened in late 2023. This "behind the walls" hub offers on-site career coaching, vocational training,



and employment assistance for incarcerated individuals. These initiatives demonstrate WC's commitment to providing accessible resources and support for diverse populations, contributing to workforce development and successful community reintegration. The expansions align with the broader goal of addressing workforce challenges in Southern Nevada while fostering inclusive economic upward mobility.



# Non-WIOA Funding

Workforce Connections received additional funding to enhance training opportunities and support economic growth in Southern Nevada. U.S. Congresswoman Dina Titus helped secure a Community Project Fund grant of \$800,000 through the U.S. Department of Labor. This funding aims to train individuals for Southern Nevada's high-demand occupations, fostering talent pipelines in key industries. Additionally, the Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR) allocated an extra \$1.5M for the Upskill Pilot, offering training to workers seeking high-demand occupations. Additionally, the City of Las Vegas awarded WC \$1M in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19 within the city. The Recovery Pilot supported various employer-based services, addressing business needs and challenges to stabilize operations for small businesses.

# NAWB Board Meeting

In July 2023, Workforce Connections hosted the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting. NAWB represents and advocates for the nation's 590+ Local Workforce Development Boards. Local Boards are called to partner with local education and economic development stakeholders to administer regional workforce programs that meet the needs of employers and job seekers. The NAWB Board members participated in hosted tours of our EmployNV Career, Youth and Business Hubs.



# Southern Nevada's Industry Sector Partnerships

## Employer-Driven & Community-Supported

### MISSION

Align the talent pipeline to effectively meet the needs of the region's target growth industries



### GOALS

- Increase engagement between industry & talent pipeline
- Connect employers to workforce system resources
- Embed industry needs in the talent pipeline



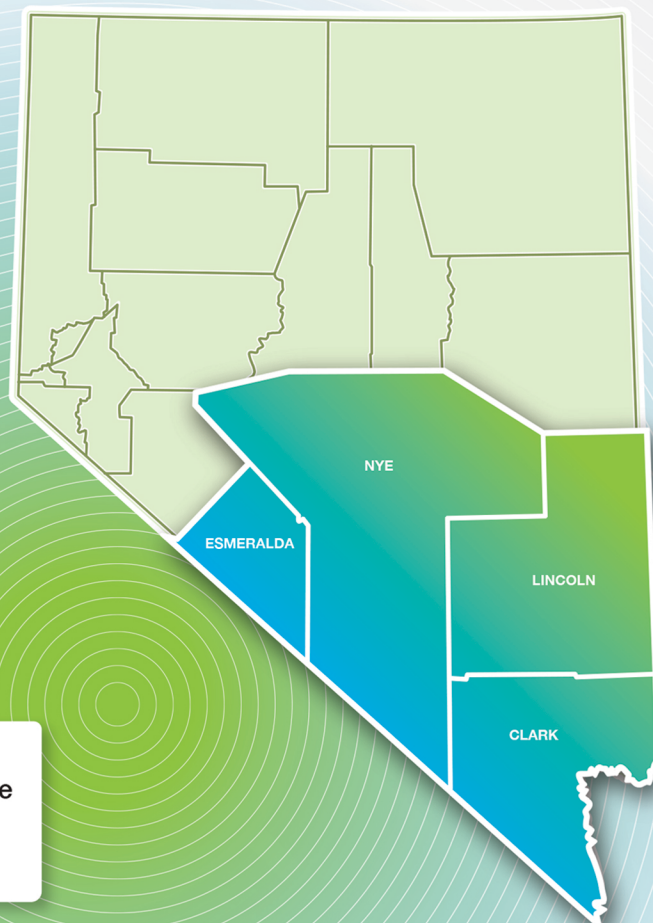
### EMPLOYER BENEFITS

- Direct connection to American Job Centers, known as EmployNV Hubs
- Access to talent, including alternate labor pools
- Access to resources to hire, train, and retain employees
- Resources for registered apprenticeships
- Online platforms connecting industry to the classroom
- Workforce Blueprint for Kids activity books
- Animated videos highlighting in-demand careers
- Student Showcases



### TARGET INDUSTRIES

- Healthcare Services
- General & Advanced Manufacturing
- Information & Communication Technologies
- Transportation & Logistics Technologies
- Clean Technologies
- Business & Financial Services
- Creative Industries



**200+** Regional Employers Engaged

**50+** Industry Collective Actions

**14** Industry Convenings Since Launch

## The Future Workforce

Addressing the critical issue of disconnected youth in Southern Nevada, the Disconnected Youth Coalition, composed of WC and 20+ community partners, aims to reduce the 17.2% disconnected youth rate by 50% in the next five years. With nearly 42,000 young adults aged 16-24 not in school or employed, this initiative seeks to provide education and early work experiences. In collaboration with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), WC's Disconnected Youth Coalition launched the "Next Stop: Your Career" campaign, utilizing RTC's transit system for outreach. The campaign includes EmployNV Youth Hubs promotion, offering youth reliable transportation and resources for workforce development. The RTC provides free transit passes to youth enrolling in career preparation programs. The overall goal is to guide disconnected youth toward sustainable career paths.

## Student Showcases

Local employers had the chance to meet face-to-face with highly skilled Clark County School District students getting ready to enter the workforce at three Student Showcase events throughout 2023. Students at Cimarron High School, Mojave High School and Southeast Career and Technical Academy interacted in person with employers about internships, training and job opportunities! The Student Showcase events assist regional employers who are having trouble finding employees by connecting them directly with the robust talent pipeline of the local K-12 system.

## Job Fairs

Throughout 2023, collaborative efforts between WC, DETR, elected officials, and local jurisdictions led to multiple successful job fairs in Southern Nevada. The March Spring Job Fair, organized with Clark County Commissioners Jim Gibson and Tick Segerblom, featured 135 employers offering over 20,000 open jobs. More than 300 on-the-spot hires occurred, with 1,900 additional job offers expected. The year witnessed continued success with various job fairs, including the August Healthcare Career Fair and the October Manufacturing Job Fair, resulting in thousands of new hires and supporting employers from our regional Industry Sector Partnerships. Notably, innovative features like free onsite childcare and virtual follow-up sessions enhanced the events.

## Talent Pipeline Summit

The Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance and Workforce Connections hosted a Talent Pipeline Summit in December 2023, focusing on regional job needs and training solutions. This half-day event, part of the ongoing Industry Sector Partnerships initiative, brought together over 200 participants from businesses, education, and workforce development organizations.

### The summit covered three key areas:

- Workforce trends: Experts discussed current and future job demands in the region.
- Employer needs: Businesses shared their specific talent requirements and challenges.
- Successful training programs: Participants explored innovative training initiatives that are preparing workers for in-demand jobs.





For more information about our WIOA Title I programs, visit:  
**[www.nvworkforceconnections.org](http://www.nvworkforceconnections.org)**

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.  
TTY (800) 326-6868 or Nevada Relay 711