



## Nevada College Collaborative

# Bulletin

### PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EFFORTS OF THE NEVADA COLLEGE COLLABORATIVE.

*Nevada's economy currently relies on a combination of traditional industries— gaming, tourism, mining, agriculture, health care, manufacturing and energy. Those times are changing.*

## Educating Nevada's new work force

The Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation projects the top industries producing the most job openings through 2020 will be in sectors related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). These include industries such as aerospace and defense, information technology, energy, and again, health care.

Nevada is positioning itself to thrive in this 21st-century economy. Our state's growing STEM industries represent an important source of high-value economic activity and quality jobs for Nevadans. The challenge lies in Nevada's ability to sustain and grow the economy, particularly in high-growth industry segments. Our success is critically dependent on the availability of an educated and skilled workforce.

Nevada's education system has the responsibility to develop a well-qualified, skilled workforce with the credentials required to meet business and industry demand. The education pipeline from secondary through college must be smooth and aligned if we're going to meet these changing workforce needs. That's why I joined with my colleagues in college

leadership to request \$9.5 million in funding from the Legislature to establish two new grant programs for community colleges:

1) The proposed **STEM Workforce Challenge Grant Program** will provide one-time grants of up to \$175,000 per year for two years (up to \$350,000 total), with a required one-to-one match from the private sector and/or philanthropic organizations, to support the development and implementation of programming that seeks to meet the skill and competency needs of local or regional STEM industries. The program(s) must demonstrate an ability to be self-sustaining following the conclusion of the grant funding. Colleges will also be eligible to apply for additional funds to facilitate capital investment in equipment critical to the proposed program(s). This one-time award would range in value up to \$250,000 and would require at least a one-to-one match from the private sector and/or philanthropic organizations.

2) The second grant program that I strongly support is the **Workforce Development Rapid Response Investment Fund** which will assist the Nevada College



Collaborative member colleges in meeting the workforce needs of industries relocating to or expanding in Nevada. It will allow our colleges to fund the initial program investment necessary to create curriculum and infrastructure for program delivery. Such programs may include short- and long-term curricula, resulting in certificates of achievement, as well as coursework leading to associate degrees. The request is for \$6.0 million.

The Nevada College Collaborative will partner with the Governor's Office of Economic Development; Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation; the Governor's Office; and the private sector in implementing the proposed grant programs, and evaluating the applications. During the upcoming months, I will be working closely with Nevada legislators to advocate for the funding necessary to assist our colleges in preparing Nevada's future workforce.

To read the full proposals go to [www.nevada.edu/ncc](http://www.nevada.edu/ncc).