



Governor's Workforce and Innovative Solutions Post-Conference Report

Office of Governor Brian Sandoval

Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation for a New Nevada (OWINN)

Executive Director – Manny Lamarre

OVERVIEW

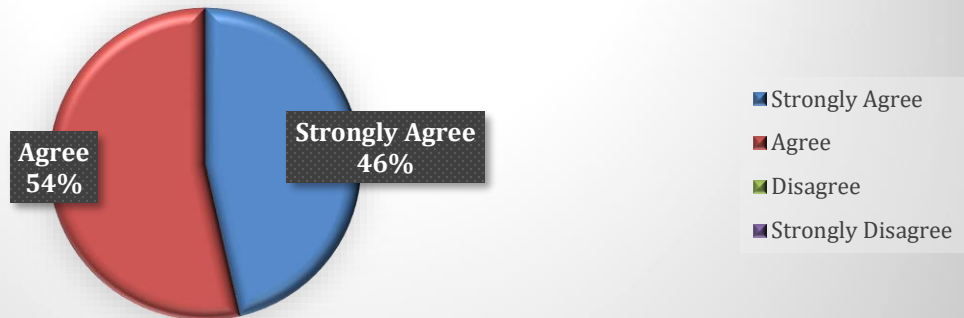
On July 14, 2017, the [Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation for a New Nevada](#) (OWINN) held the Governor's Workforce and Innovative Solutions Conference that shined a light on innovative ideas, practices, policies, and solutions to workforce development across the state of Nevada. Specifically, the conference explored the elevated role of apprenticeships in Nevada, changes happening to align K-12 and post-secondary career and technical education to high-demand industries, and resources available to all Nevada's employers with interest in finding a skilled, diverse workforce.

The statewide workforce conference was free of charge to all attendees and was held at the Clark County Government Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. In total, 329 individuals registered for the conference and 225 checked-in. Following the conference, OWINN partnered with employers, Nevada DETR JobConnect, and Workforce Connections to host a job fair which had approximately 800 job seekers attend. The conference featured three breakout sessions and a powerful keynote speaker. Breakout session 1 titled "*Apprenticeship Landscape Deep Dive*" featured state and national speakers who highlighted opportunities to leverage registered apprenticeships to enhance the workforce development pipeline in all industries. Breakout session 2 titled "*Career Technical Education's Alignment with Industries and Pathways*" featured K-12 and postsecondary state leaders who highlighted the strategic use of labor-market data and evidence based practices being leveraged to prepare students for college and careers. Breakout session 3 titled "*Workforce Policies from the 79th Legislative Session*" featured state legislatures and state policy leaders' discussing key workforce takeaways from the Legislative Session.

The keynote was delivered by Suzi LeVine, Retired United States Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein and Eric LeVine, CEO of the wine cellar community, Cellar Tracker and moderated by Meghan Wills, Program Director at the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices. Suzi and Eric were a dynamic duo and shared a compelling perspective of how registered apprenticeship is being leveraged around the world to mitigate workforce gaps and prepare individuals for 21st century careers into the middle class. The Swiss model of apprenticeship, which is inclusive of all industries and all students, was highlighted – for example, in Switzerland, 70% of students start an apprenticeship at age 15 and the overall unemployment rate and the youth unemployment is practically similar, unlike many other countries.

After the conference, OWINN surveyed attendees to determine the effectiveness of the conference and the satisfaction of participants. OWINN asked the participants 15 questions and received a total of 69 unique responses. The survey allowed participants to answer close-ended and open-ended questions that generated both quantitative and qualitative responses. The chart summaries below highlight key takeaways of attendees from the Governor's Workforce and Innovative Solutions Conference.

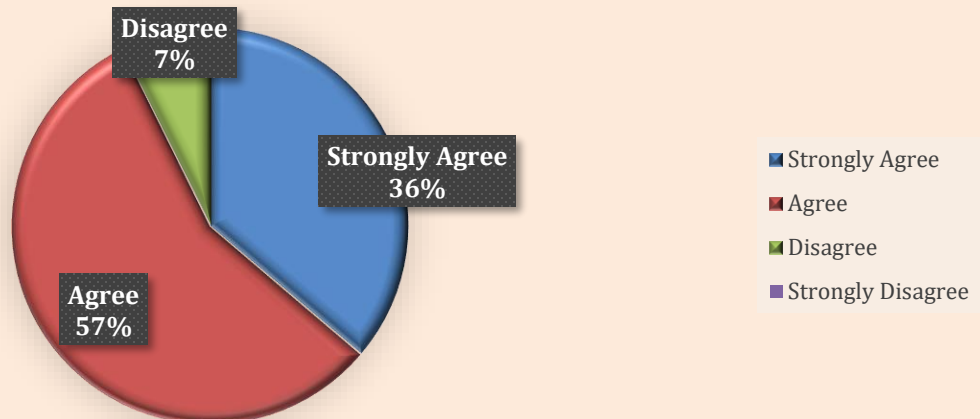
1. Overall, the Governor's Workforce and Innovative Solutions Conference was a good use of my time?



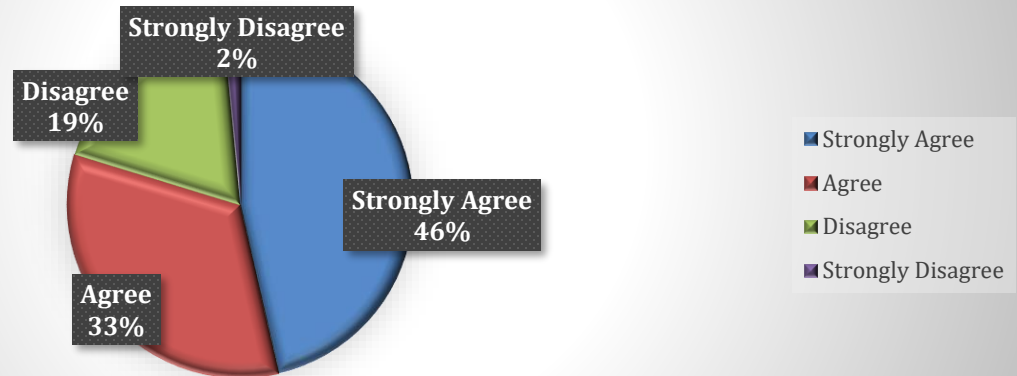
2. As a result of this conference, I have a better understanding of current and future workforce and education initiatives occurring in Nevada.



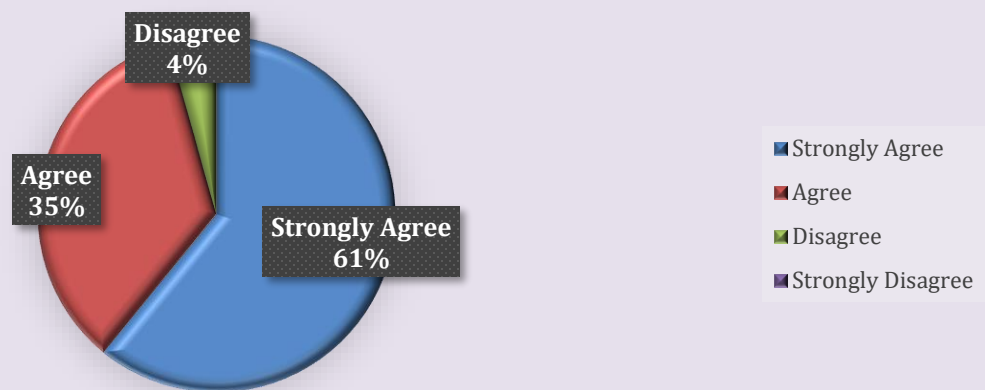
3. This conference has given me some possible solutions, resources, or ideas to utilize in my work.



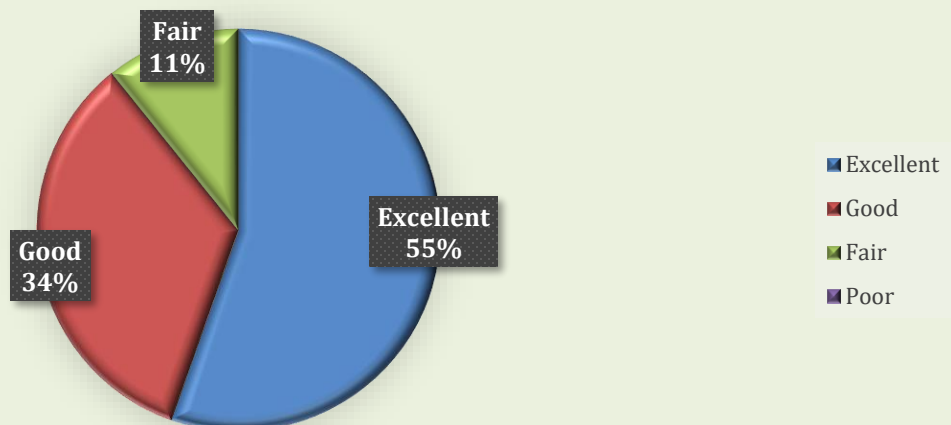
4. As a result of this conference, I have a more positive view of apprenticeships in Nevada.



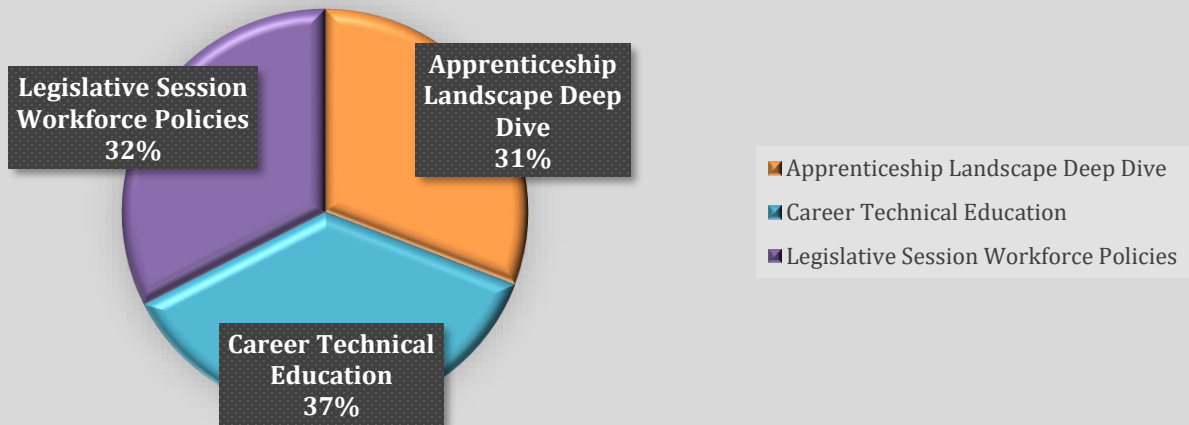
5. I believe apprenticeships are a viable way to improve Nevada's workforce.



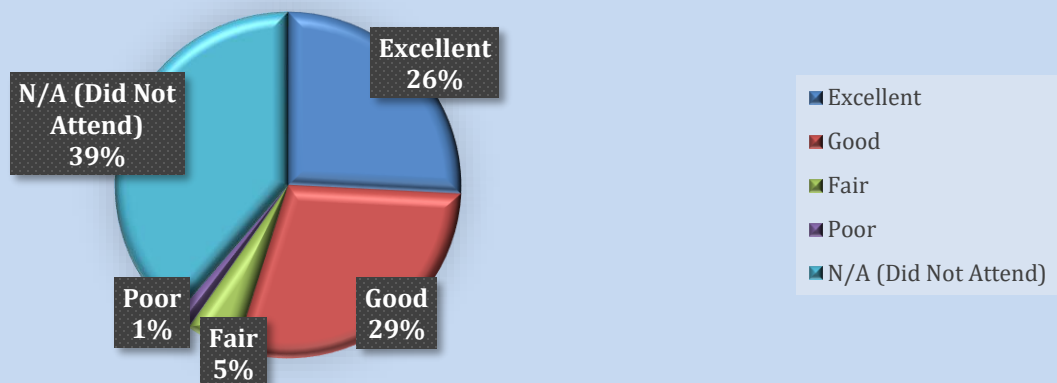
6. How would you rate the conference keynote speakers?



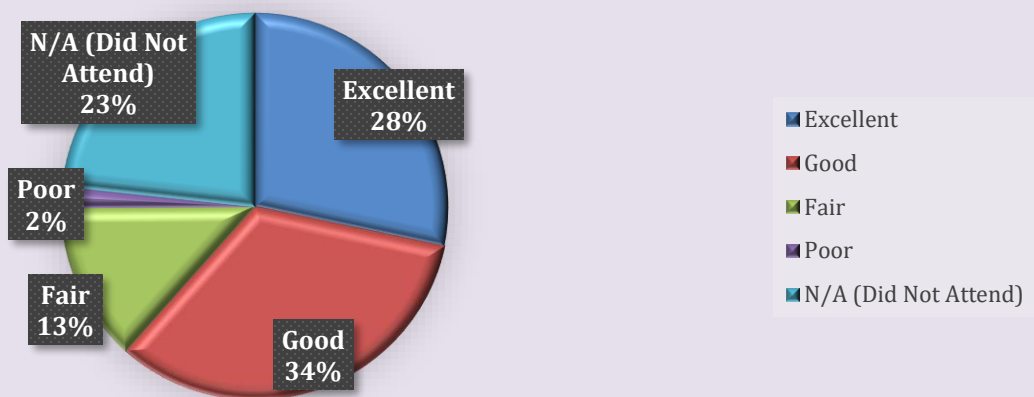
7. Which breakout sessions did you attend?



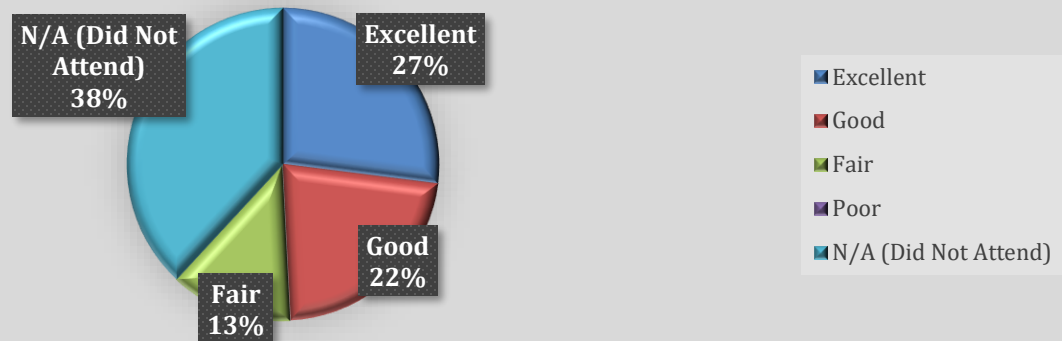
8. How would you rate the Apprenticeship Landscape Deep Dive breakout session content and panelists?



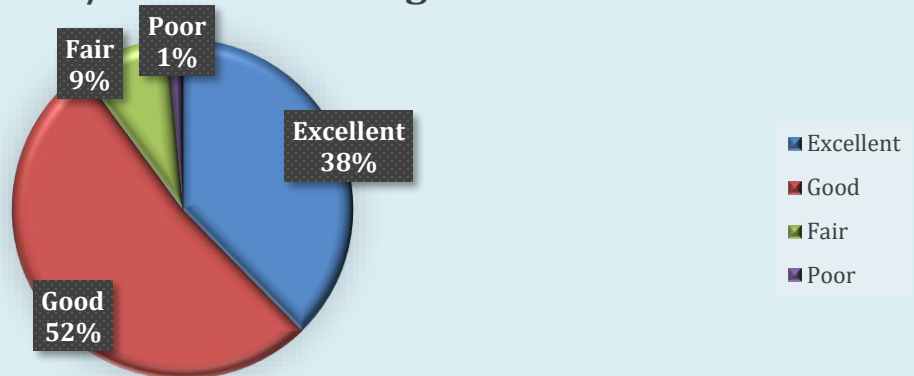
9. How would you rate the Career Technical Education breakout session content and panelists?



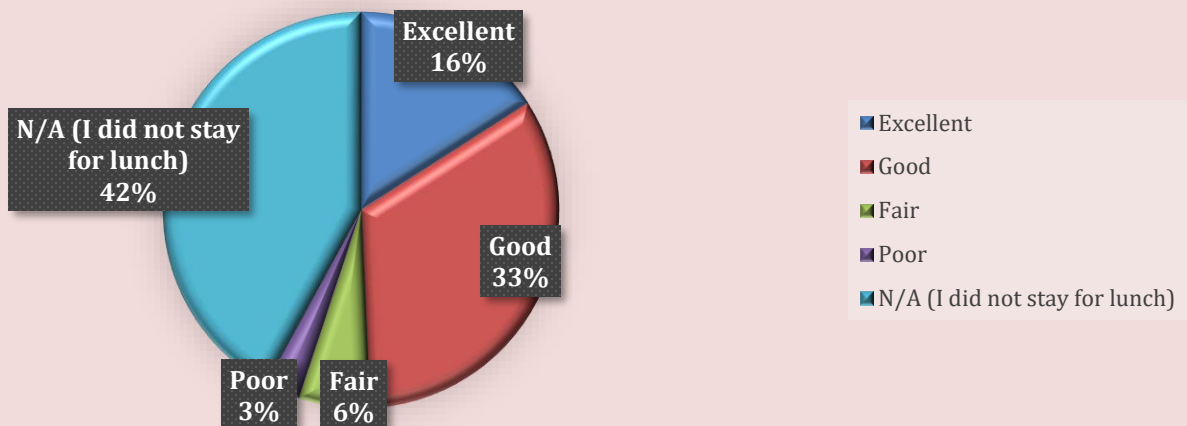
10. How would you rate the 79th Legislative Session Workforce Policies breakout session content and panelists?



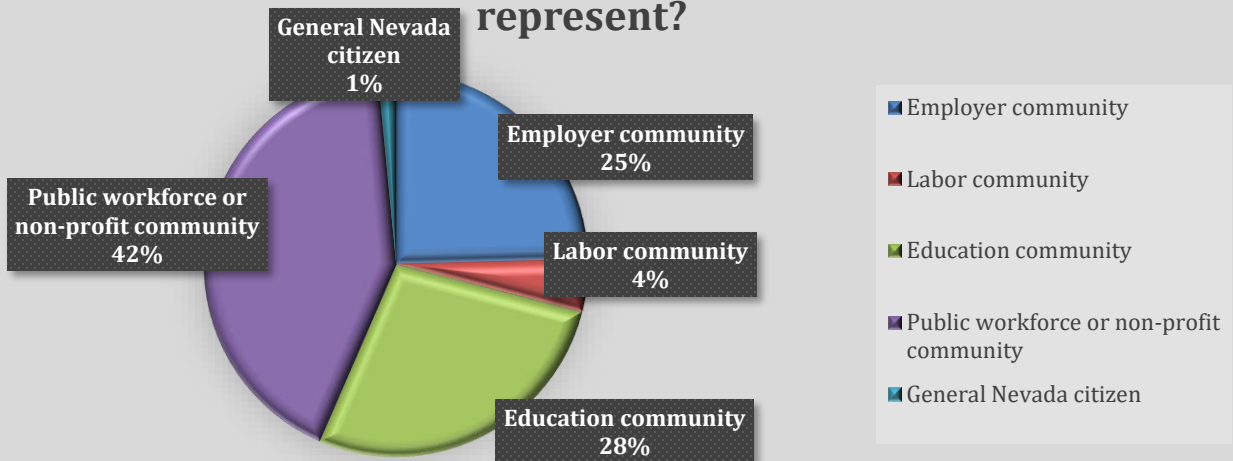
11. How would you rate the conference venue/facilities and logistics?



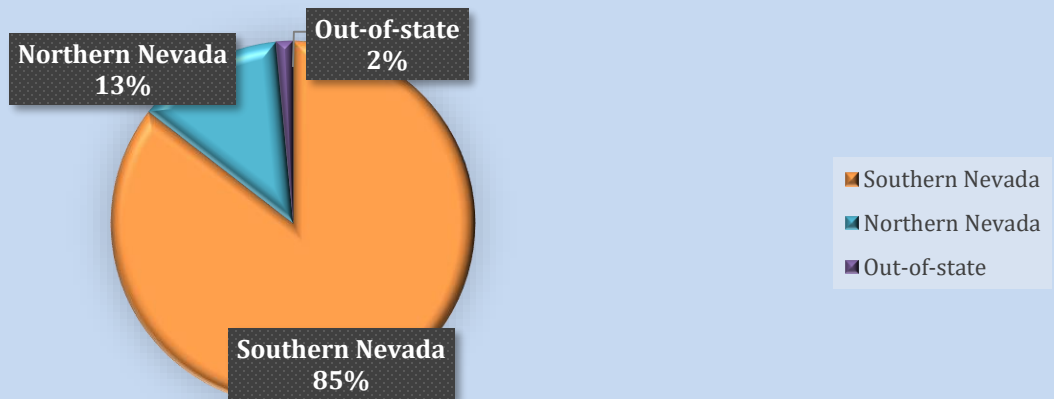
12. How would you rate the conference lunch?



13. Which group best represents the organization you represent?



14. Where did you travel from to attend the conference?



On question 15 of the survey, participants provided written response to the question: “How did you learn about this conference?” Responses were coded and categorized with similar answers, and then analyzed for frequency. Most survey participants indicated that they learned about the conference through email, work, communication from OWINN, or an organization involved with workforce development in the state.

Additional feedback about the conference was provided by 33 respondents. Their written responses were categorized and grouped together for similarity. OWINN highlighted feedback we found particularly encouraging.

Positive Feedback	
Excellent Conference	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Excellent conference.” • “The conference was very informative.” • “Excellent conference. Very well done and even though I didn’t stay for lunch, I thought it was nice that lunch was provided.” • <u>“This was the most informative and interactive conference I have ever experienced. Thank you!”</u> • “This conference was one of the best and most engaging I have ever attended. I am not too familiar with workforce development and have little knowledge about apprenticeships, but the conference gave me a much better understanding of those topics. The speakers were all great and the keynote speakers were very engaging and informative (PPT slides did not have much writing, they used pictures, and had engaging stories/examples to help explain their main points). The session moderators left enough time for questions for each panel I attended. Also, the food was delicious and the opportunity to network was nice. I think Manny and the rest of the OWINN team did a wonderful job and that this conference jump started the crucial, necessary statewide conversation that Nevada needs to have about workforce development and apprenticeships.” • “Great conference.” • “Keep up the great work!” • <u>“The best conference I have attended in years. Most relevant to our workforce development needs in Nevada and across America.”</u> • “Please keep this most positive workforce development effort moving ahead. This is a game changer for people and businesses of Nevada and our nation. Our youth, young adults, and transitioning older adults need this pathway to success...More conference (for growing awareness and ROI reporting) and everyday collaboration should continue.” 	
Great Networking Opportunity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great opportunity to network with business and industry. Relevant information to building Nevada’s workforce outside of the traditional expectations.” • “Encouraged to see the owner perspective being more thoroughly integrated in the WD process. Would like to see a venue/platform/workgroup for employers who actively utilize WD resources (OJT, incumbent grants, etc.) to share best practices and an opportunity for a chat-room type component to get more immediate feedback from peers.” • <u>“One of the best aspects of the conference was the ability to network with providers, businesses, partners, and elected officials. Please retain and expand this aspect of the program.”</u> 	
Excellent Breakout Sessions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The breakouts were great.” • “Great speakers and great breakout sessions.” 	

Excellent Keynote Speakers

- ***"Keynotes were wonderful and dynamic and very inspiring."***
- "I will be following up with the principals of OWINN, as well as with Ambassador LeVine and her husband Eric."

Recommendations for Improvement

More Time

- "Perhaps 10 more minutes at the end of session for Q&A"
- "Would like to have had more for Q&A in breakout."
- "Expand it. Having more opportunities to attend all the sessions and more sessions in general would have been nice."
- "Suggest making time to attend all three breakouts."
- "Longer sessions and more time between sessions."
- "I would have liked to have more time between session to network with presenters or other conference attendees."
- "The breakout sessions were not long enough. No time was allotted for questions."

Expanding Information Into Action

- "The breakouts were great, but I would like to have more information on who I can share my needs or ideas with and how we can expand."
- "The conference was very informative but I would've liked to move beyond information and into action. Especially as a representative from the non-profit community."

Larger Capacity Rooms for Breakout Sessions

- "I don't think the rooms were in favor of the attendees. It seemed a bit unfair to squeeze so many people into small rooms."

Difficulty Hearing Speakers/Panelists

- "The speakers were hardly audible on the legislative session panel. Needed microphones."
- "For the CTE session you could barely hear what they were saying, and they had no microphones. The 79th session wrap up had the same issue."
- "Our break-out speakers did not have microphones. It was difficult to hear them from the mid-back of the room."

Send Out Agenda and Session Information Earlier

- "Please send out agenda and session information more than a few days before the conference."

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A SKILLED AND DIVERSE WORKFORCE STRENGTHENS ALL NEVADANS



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- a. Office of Governor Brian Sandoval
- b. Clark County Government & Commissioner Kirkpatrick
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- f. Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
- g. Nevada Department of Education
- h. Nevada Department of Business and Industry
- i. Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation
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- k. Nevadaworks
- l. National Governors Association
- m. Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance
- n. Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce
- o. Truckee Meadows Community College
- p. Urban Institute
- q. Western Nevada College
- r. Workforce Connections

About OWINN

[The Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation](#) (OWINN) helps drive a skilled, diverse, and aligned workforce in the state of Nevada by promoting collaboration and cooperation among all entities focused on workforce development. OWINN works to address Nevada's workforce needs by leveraging labor-market data, scaling career pathways that leads to industry-recognized credentials, expanding apprenticeships, and designing responsive workforce policies. OWINN was originally created in March 2016 via [Executive Order 2016-08](#) signed by Governor Brian Sandoval. During the 79th Legislative Session, Senate Bill 516, approved by the legislature and signed by Governor Sandoval, codified OWINN in state statute.