



October 10, 2016

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

On September 29, 2016, The Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB) Industry Sector Council on Natural Resources held its first meeting since the reorganization of the Industry Sector Councils authorized by [Executive Order 2016-08](#).

The first meeting was informational. Therefore, no recommendations were proposed and no actions were taken. The meeting provided members with context of the Sector Council's purpose, duties, goals and objectives. Natural resources labor market data was shared, focusing on top occupations, industry trends, state and national economic comparisons to serve as a foundation for future meetings when members will provide data-driven recommendations and insights. A common meeting structure was also shared to promote effective and efficient meetings.

The attached page below contains key takeaways from the Sector Council meeting. The Council will revisit issues on occupations, skills, and educational needs of the natural resources sector in December 2016. I will provide a report and share any recommendations and insights from the Council members following the December meeting.

While minutes of the meeting are not finalized, I have prepared a summary of key takeaways below. No action is required. The meeting summary below is condensed for succinctness. Thus, the summary may include additional content that I overlooked, but such changes will be transmitted in the final meeting minutes.

On behalf of the Council members, thank you for providing Nevadans with this forum.

Respectfully submitted,

Manny Lamarre

Executive Director
Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation

Key Takeaways from September 2016 Natural Resources Sector Council Meeting

- A chair and vice chair was elected
- A common meeting structure was established

Data Presented by DETR and GOED

- Employment in natural resources is projected to grow from 117,900 jobs in 2016 to 123,600 jobs in 2024.
- Top three natural resource industry occupation groups based on GOED consensus rankings:
 1. Engineers
 2. Drafters, Engineering Technicians, and Mapping Technicians
 3. Computer Occupations
- The amount of mechanical engineers (high demand consensus rank 1) in Nevada is 958 below the national average, and the amount of electrical engineers (high demand consensus rank 2) is 632 below the national average. Both are in the top 3 when data is sorted by the amount of jobs below the national average.

Sector councils discussed in-demand occupations, emerging industry trends, and human capital needs as it relates to education, skills, and experience:

- Members confirmed that the data presented by GOED and DETR accurately depicted the needs in their industry based on their experiences. High demand and difficult to fill positions that members specifically mentioned:
 - Engineers; engineering technicians; mapping technicians; computer and other information technology occupations; mechanics and technicians; postdoctoral researchers (specifically in water research); maintenance technicians for automation equipment in agricultural and packaging
- Members noted that they typically have to recruit out of state and relocate workers in order to fill open positions in the engineering field.
- Members expressed a need for a variety of certain skills including mechanical aptitude, knowledge of safety, technical expertise, basic math and reading skills, and information governance management.
 - Skillsets such as “accuracy” and “safety” is extremely important in their industry.
- Members expressed concerns of an aging workforce within their sector and younger employees are lacking appropriate soft and technical skills such as problem solving and mechanical aptitude
- Members expressed having positive experience with CTE students in terms of their skillsets
- Computer occupations is very important and is becoming more relevant.
- Members appreciated the educator/training provider presentation from Great Basin College and are excited about the possibility of developing future collaborative relationships.
- Emerging industry trends that members foresee impacting jobs and requiring new training is the increased demand for clean energy.

Next steps

OWINN will share an *Industry Occupations Insight survey* with Sector Council members and a broader list of employers. The survey will focus on top consensus occupations and skills within the industry and capture information that complements the Sector Council meeting discussions. Recommendations will be developed from that reported information for the Council’s consideration during a meeting tentatively scheduled for early December.