

Subcommittee Members Present

- Dr. Mariluz Garcia (Chair)
- Teresa Dastrup
- Maite Salazar
- Dr. Robin Titus
- Joyce Woodhouse
- Peter Zierhut

Quick Recap

The **CTE Subcommittee** discussed improving job opportunities, infrastructure, and education in urban and rural areas of Nevada, focusing on job creation, reskilling, and career exploration in emerging industries. They also emphasized the importance of aligning education with the state's prioritized industries, enhancing learner choice, and fostering an entrepreneurial spirit. Lastly, they explored the concept of policy leverage, the need for transferable skills, and the potential of incorporating real-life entrepreneurial experiences into the educational program.

Next Steps

- The facilitator will share the slides and the state policy calendar with the subcommittee members. Before the next meeting, she will share summaries of the research and data on CTE graduates to provide a more accessible overview for the group.
- The subcommittee chair and facilitator will coordinate sharing the content of this meeting for the June 4th Commission report

Summary

Improving Job Opportunities and Infrastructure in Nevada

The subcommittee discussed improving job opportunities and infrastructure in both urban and rural areas of Nevada. One member highlighted the disparities in the state, and another proposed focusing on job creation and policies to ensure equal opportunities. The discussion also emphasized the importance of ongoing learning, reskilling, and career exploration, particularly in emerging industries such as clean energy and AI. The group also discussed a project involving the construction of a factory in rural Nevada.

Aligning Students' Career Paths With Achievement

The group discussed the importance of aligning students' career paths with the Commission's aim to raise achievement levels. They stressed the need for early exposure to various career opportunities, ensuring current career pathways are beneficial, and supporting entrepreneurial spirit in education. One subcommittee member shared her experience in business training and her role in helping small businesses identify their workforce needs. The group also highlighted the necessity of improving the education system in Nevada and the potential of supporting entrepreneurial programs in education.

Creating Future-Focused Education Vision in Nevada

The members discussed creating a future-focused vision for the education system in Nevada and the need to think creatively and avoid duplication of efforts among subcommittees. The group also emphasized the necessity for alignment at the commission level when recommending policy changes. Lastly, one member proposed revisiting a skill list in upcoming meetings to reflect the changing demographics and growth of new industries within the state.

Aligning Education With State's Prioritized Industries

The facilitator discussed the importance of aligning education and workforce development with the state's prioritized industries and revenue generation. She emphasized that learner choice and happiness should also be considered. The group discussed the top employers in the state and the potential for small and emerging businesses. One member cautioned against relying solely on a list of targeted industries and highlighted the importance of an adaptable workforce with transferable skills. Another member added the need to excite and engage young learners to build a connection between education and future career goals.

CTE Enrollment and Industry Trends

The group reviewed data on the high rate of CTE enrollment, particularly in target industries, and discussed the need to track jobs within pathways for the future workforce, highlighting the need to understand the risks and rewards that lead young people to opt into these programs. One member added that the list of available jobs is constantly evolving and emphasized the importance of regularly studying the state of the industry to understand both current and upcoming job opportunities.

Discussing Policy Lever and Entrepreneurship

The subcommittee chair initiated a discussion about the impact of the work on Nevada and asked if there were any existing committees or educational working groups that could help. The facilitator explained the concept of policy lever, giving examples of national initiatives like the 'Jobs for the Future' lead pathways project. This project aims to identify influential drivers, potential funding sources, and frameworks for career exploration, training, and work-based learning. One member expressed concern about the discouragement of entrepreneurship in schools and suggested that encouraging creative ideas and different learning methods could foster an entrepreneurial spirit.

Focusing on Career Preparation in Education

Several subcommittee members discussed the importance of focusing on career preparation and industry-specific skills in K-12 education. They highlighted the need to make career preparation a core part of the curriculum, rather than an elective, and emphasized the importance of transferable skills to help students navigate different industries and careers. The group also discussed the need for more research on the current state of education in Nevada, particularly in terms of healthcare and entrepreneurship, and the potential for career pathways and competency-based education to address these issues.

Adaptable Workforce and Career Decision-Making

The subcommittee discussed the importance of adopting an adaptable workforce and career decision-making. One member emphasized that career choices should not be electives in their system. Another member brought up the concept of multiple touchpoints with children throughout their educational career and the importance of exposing them to STEM. The team also discussed the potential of incorporating real-life entrepreneurial experiences into their educational program. The June 4th Commission was mentioned as a platform for further discussion and report-back.