

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION  
 NEXT GENERATION CAREER PATHWAYS SUBCOMMITTEE  
 September 30, 2024  
 9:00 AM**

Office	Address	Meeting Room
Virtual	<a href="#">Zoom</a> <a href="#">Videoconference Link</a>	Dial-In: 1-206-337-9723 Meeting ID: 636 935 9062

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE NEXT GENERATION CAREER PATHWAYS  
 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Maite Salazar, Owner and Co-Founder, 3F Initiatives LLC  
 Hannah Villatoro, Nevada Youth Legislature Representative  
 Joyce Woodhouse, Commission on School Funding Member  
 Peter Zierhut, Vice President, Haas Automation, Inc.  
 Guest Presenter, Irene Bustamante Adams, Deputy Director & Chief Strategy Officer, NV Workforce Connections

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Teresa Dastrup, President, Elko County School District School Board  
 Dr. Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner, Washoe County  
 Dr. Robin Titus, Nevada State Senate

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order and roll was taken.

**2. Public Comment #1**

There were no public comments provided.

**3. Introduction of Agenda, Goals, Process and Deliverables** *(Information and Discussion)*

Subcommittee members will situate their work within the Commission’s broader work between now and December 2024 and consider the deliverables to be produced.

- Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, National Center on Education and the Economy
- Janice Case, Regional Director, West, National Center on Education and the Economy
- Leah Moschella, Senior Designer, Leader Experiences

The meeting began by discussing important points and potential opportunities. The pathway subcommittee discussed goals around transferable skills, career exploration starting in middle school, and consistent K-12 to business/industry connections. They plan to translate their work into policy recommendations.

**4. Review of Policy Design and Implementation Considerations** *(Information and Discussion)*

Subcommittee members will review the synthesis of their work to date and offer suggestions on how to refine and improve it in light of their research on Nevada and on top performing systems globally.

- Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, National Center on Education and the Economy
- Janice Case, Regional Director, West, National Center on Education and the Economy
- Leah Moschella, Senior Designer, Leader Experiences

Irene Bustamante Adams, representing NV Workforce Connections was introduced and presented an overview of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and Nevada workforce connections' work, focusing on potential policy recommendations.

### **Focus on Customer Groups and Funding Process**

Irene Bustamante Adams discussed the focus of their organization on two main customer groups: job seekers and employers. She emphasized the importance of removing barriers for full employment and post-secondary education, particularly for youth and dislocated workers. She explained the funding process, starting from the Federal government, then the Department of Labor, State agency, local boards, and finally to the American job centers. Irene also highlighted the role of the American job centers as part of the one-stop delivery system, and the need to convene the ecosystem to serve clients effectively. She mentioned the jurisdiction of their organization, serving four counties in Nevada, and the presence of local elected officials and a board of members for accountability.

### **Youth Services, Partnerships, and Employment Hubs**

Irene Bustamante Adams discussed the services provided by her organization, which focuses on youth aged 14 to 24, particularly those with basic skills deficiencies, English language learners, school dropouts, homeless, pregnant, or involved in the justice system. The organization offers academic and educational support, work experience, personal and leadership development, supportive services, financial literacy, and career guidance. They also cater to adults aged 18 and older, with a priority on veterans and public assistance recipients. Irene mentioned a partnership with the Housing division, which received a \$50 million grant, and the organization's role in connecting individuals with vocational training and employment opportunities. She also clarified that the Department of Labor provides funding, which is then distributed through dieters and American job centers. Irene discussed the establishment of youth, career, and employer hubs in Southern Nevada, which aim to provide services to individuals of different age groups and professions. These services are available at no cost to employers or job seekers.

### **Progress and Initiatives in Education and Workforce**

Irene Bustamante Adams discussed the progress of their current work at the local board, highlighting successful pilots with the Clark County School District and the Nevada Department of Education. She mentioned a workforce fellow program for high school counselors and a career exploration pilot that has been successful for several years. Irene also discussed initiatives aimed at providing vocational training and employment opportunities for students, including a partnership with MGM Culinary students and the donation of a green mobile classroom to the Northeast Career and Technical Academy. She also mentioned a senior workforce pilot that prepared students for a job fair and plans to upscale this program to reach 500 students next year. Lastly, Irene highlighted their role as conveners for the Disconnected Youth Coalition and their collaborations with public school administrators, teachers, school police, and community leaders.

### **Strategic Approach to Industry Sector Partnerships**

Irene Bustamante Adams discussed their strategic approach of connecting job seekers with employers through industry sector partnerships, which have been successful for two years. She emphasized their commitment to transparency and supporting individuals with barriers for at least 12 months, with a return on investment of 4-6 months. Irene mentioned the impact of the labor on Nevada's healthcare industry, working on funding healthcare internships, and a blueprint for Maryland involving career coaches in high schools. She also discussed a strategic plan for southern Nevada focused on seven emerging industries.

## **Workforce Development Initiatives and Collaboration**

Irene Bustamante Adams presented on workforce development initiatives, including direct employer connections, proactive work with school counselors, an online platform for educators, and targeted resources for specific populations.

Following the presentation, subcommittee members expressed enthusiasm about job training for students. One member showed interest in potential career coaches at schools and collaboration with the Latin Chamber of Commerce.

One subcommittee member raised additional questions and made an observation about the substantial population of four counties in Nevada.

### **5. Final Reflections and Next Steps** (*Information and Discussion*)

Subcommittee members will discuss any additional analysis needed between now and the next full Commission meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

- Subcommittee Chair

The group was reminded of the upcoming commission meeting on October 29, 2024.

### **6. Public Comment #2**

There were no public comments provided.

### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.