

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Ansara Martino, Senior Program Administrator/Officer, GOWINN  
(702) 486-8080**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**GOWINN AND NDE TEACHER EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM HELPS EDUCATE TEACHERS ABOUT NEVADA'S  
HIGH-GROWTH, HIGH-DEMAND INDUSTRIES**

**Las Vegas / Carson City, NV (September 8, 2021)** - The Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation (GOWINN) and the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) have partnered on the State's teacher externship program to link Nevada high school teachers with employers in the State's high-growth, high-demand industries.

The program, first offered in 2019, is a collaboration between Tesla, NDE, and GOWINN, as well as many other industry partners. It is open to all middle and high school teachers, counselors, and administrators across the state and provides the opportunity to participate in an immersive experience in a variety of occupational areas and activities.

Between August and October, participating teachers will spend between two and four days with an employer related to their instructional area. At the conclusion of the externship, each teacher will develop a lesson plan that highlights the key takeaways from their experience and continue to engage with the employer to organize future interactions with students, either through in-person tours of their worksite or through [Nepris](#), an online, cloud-based platform that virtually connects students with industry professionals all over the U.S.

A total of 17 teachers have been placed with employers in healthcare, culinary arts, forensics, biomedical science, aerospace, engineering, computer science/cybersecurity, manufacturing, and teaching and training. Participating employers include Grand Sierra Resort, Culinary Academy of Las Vegas, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Washoe County Crime Lab, UMC Hospital System, and Southern Nevada Health District.

Lee Roberts, a teacher in the Forensic Science CTE Program at Sunrise Mountain High School in Las Vegas, participated in the externship program last year with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. This year, Roberts will be assigned to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Forensic Laboratory.

"The externship program is a great opportunity for teachers like me, with mainly academic knowledge, a chance to gain real experience with those who are actually in the field. Then we can bring this experience into the classroom and share with all levels of students. In addition to the knowledge and experience we have gained, we are building contacts that can answer questions and possibly work with our students in the future," said Roberts, who is teaching in his 32<sup>nd</sup> year.

"GOWINN is very excited to be able to connect our educational system with our high-growth, high-demand industries in Nevada in partnership with the Nevada Department of Education. Creating a space for our amazing educators to be immersed in an experiential learning environment will allow for their classroom teaching to be enhanced and inspired, and truly connected to the skills needed by Nevada's employers. GOWINN values the opportunity to help connect teachers with our Industries. Program Development and Engagement Specialist, Amy Fleming, is working to find additional host employers for the teachers still in need of placement. Engaging Nevada Employers in work-based learning is so critical to building our pipeline of future talent in Nevada," said Isla Young, GOWINN Executive Director.

"I am excited to see this initiative between the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation and the Nevada Department of Education come to life as it is undoubtedly another step forward in advancing Nevada's education," said Governor Sisolak. "I look forward to the continued partnership between our education system and our workforce as it will further connect Nevada students to industry professionals working in high-growth and high-demand fields, directly aligning with our State's economic development and workforce development plans."

"One of the Nevada Department of Education's stated Goals is that all students graduate future-ready and globally prepared for postsecondary success and civic life. I would like to credit Tesla for setting the bar and piloting the teacher externship experience which led to the development and expansion of the program. This program will propel us toward our goal of empowering Nevada's educators to prepare our students to effectively enter high-growth, high-demand industries," said Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction. "Initiatives like this are key to ensuring that each and every student in Nevada graduates with the tools they need to build a home, a life, and a future. Thank you to Governor Sisolak and GOWINN for their partnership in bringing this externship program to life."

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### **About GOWINN**

GOWINN helps drive a skilled, diverse, and aligned workforce in the State of Nevada by promoting cooperation and collaboration among all entities focused on workforce development. Its chief objectives are to prepare all K-12 students for college and career success, increase the number of Nevadans with postsecondary degrees and credentials, and boost employment outcomes in training and credentialing programs.

### **About the Nevada Department of Education (NDE)**

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) leads and collaborates with Nevada's 17 school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority to advance educational equity and achieve its mission to improve student achievement and educator effectiveness by ensuring opportunities, facilitating learning, and promoting excellence. Under the leadership of the State Board of Education, NDE impacts the achievement of more than half a million children and 30,000 educators.