



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2024

Media Contact:

Valentina Bonaparte, Communications Director

775-301-7701 | detrmedia@detr.nv.gov

OWINN Unveils Key Workforce Development Findings at NPWR Research Forum; Introduces 2024 Strategic Plan

RENO/LAS VEGAS, Nev. — [Nevada P-20 to Workforce Research Data System](#) (NPWR) and the [Office of Workforce Innovation](#) (OWINN) hosted the second annual NPWR Research Forums in Reno on December 5, 2023 and Las Vegas on February 29, 2024. Designed as a platform for the recipients of GOWINN’s 2023 NPWR Research Grant, the forum provided a unique opportunity for various researchers to share their insights and data findings for methods to improve Nevada’s most challenging policy problems in workforce development, economic diversification, and education.

The grants, generously funded by the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, through the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), were established with the overarching goal of catalyzing advancements in Nevada's workforce development systems and programs.

The presentations encompassed a diverse range of topics including examining the differentiating factors between Nevada’s highest and lowest-performing schools and districts in terms of on-time graduation rates, performance on standardized tests, and college-going rates; exploring the gender gap in Nevada and proposals of public policy interventions to improve educational and workforce outcomes; and understanding what the gaps are in soft skill development in Career and Technical Education programs across Nevada.

“We are proud to provide a platform for the incredible work being done by the recipients of the NPWR Research Grants,” said Kristen Dwyer, NPWR Manager. “Their dedication and innovative approaches will undoubtedly contribute to the long-term success of Nevada's workforce, economy, and education systems.”

The forums underscored the collaborative spirit that defines Nevada's approach to addressing challenges and seizing opportunities in workforce development. Members of prominent

institutions, including the Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities, Brookings Mountain West, and The Lincy Institute, were in attendance, contributing to the dynamic exchange of ideas and insights. A full listing of the inaugural 2023 funded NPWR Research Grant awardees can be found here: <https://npwr.nv.gov/Research>.

NPWR Research Forums are held annually in both Reno and Las Vegas to provide updates and receive feedback from the academic, business, government, and service-provider organizations and build research collaborations that support the NPWR research agenda.

Dwyer also shared the first strategic plan developed for NPWR at each forum. The plan focuses on OWINN's plans to bolster NPWR's structure, streamline data management, and appointing analysts and specialists to ensure efficient onboarding and support that will further enhance the system and capabilities around data for the state.

The plan also outlines efforts to modernize NPWR, making it more user-friendly for legislators, employers, job seekers, researchers, and media, with a keen emphasis on accessibility and filling data gaps. The success of these initiatives is contingent on securing adequate funding, with OWINN committed to working closely with Nevada's legislature, exploring federal grants, and engaging private foundations.

To learn more about the Nevada P-20 to Workforce Research Data System, please visit: <https://npwr.nv.gov/>

###

About Nevada P-20 to Workforce Research Data System

The Nevada P-20 to Workforce Research Data System (NPWR) is a state-of-the-art research tool that provides Nevadans with unparalleled access to the knowledge needed to understand trends shaping the State's education and workforce outcomes. Using state-of-the-art technology and best-in-class security, NPWR is designed to inform education and workforce policies and initiatives across Nevada.

About the Office of Workforce Innovation

The Office of Workforce Innovation (OWINN) 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 credentials and increase labor force participation.