



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2020

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**Nevada State Library Workforce Recovery Partnership Project to be Highlighted
in National Virtual Tour by American Library Association**

Learn and Earn: Nevada Libraries Harness Virtual 3D for Education and Careers

Carson City, NV – This Thursday, August 6, at 11:00 a.m. the Nevada State Library and Nevada Library Association will host a “stop” on the American Library Association’s nationwide virtual tour, which will highlight Nevada’s groundbreaking workforce recovery partnership pilot project between the State Library, Nevada’s public libraries with virtual reality systems, and the College of Southern Nevada that uses 3D and virtual reality to train Nevadans for living-wage careers as certified dialysis technicians in just 12 weeks.

Libraries are under a federal mandate to participate in workforce development, and the Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy—whose membership includes Governor appointees and ex officio members from state agencies like Education, the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, and DETR that share in the advancement of library and literacy goals—has put emerging technology front and center for the work of the Nevada State Library.

“Marrying the two, and in partnership with CSN, the State Library conceived of a program that would leverage library technology investments made by Governor Steve Sisolak and the Nevada State Legislature, including expanded STEM-focused 3D resources, to help unemployed or lower-earning Nevadans virtually explore and ultimately train and become credentialed in a living-wage vocational career,” says Nancy Cummings-Schmidt, State Council on Libraries and Literacy member.

“I knew emerging technology was vital to the future of workforce development in Nevada when we made it a priority of the Council and the State Library, but I couldn’t possibly have imagined a pandemic on the horizon that would bring an economic and employment crisis like we’re

experiencing,” said Gov. Sisolak. “I’m deeply encouraged by the innovation and implications of this pilot project. This is exactly the kind of tool we need in hand as we work to get Nevada families back on their feet.”

In the COVID economy, as many lower-wage service jobs are evaporating for Nevada workers, this pilot project represents a key opportunity to use virtual-reality career exploration and training to help workers discover, become credentialed for, and enter vocational STEM careers, such as in healthcare and advanced manufacturing, often within a matter of weeks or months.

Nevada is one of 10 states featured in the ALA’s nationwide tour. The public is invited to register and attend the online event, where ALA President Julius Jefferson will meet with librarians across institutions and partners and stakeholders to discuss the impact of this project, its relevance to the current economic challenges faced by so many Nevada residents, and its potential for expansion.

Forum participants include:

- Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., ALA President
- Senator Moises "Mo" Denis, District 2, Clark County, NV
- Mark Andersen, CoFounder and President, Lifeliq
- Patrick "Tod" Colegrove, Ph.D., Carson City Library Director
- Sue Holligan-Folds, RN, MA, College of Southern Nevada; Retired coordinator and Strategic Advisor, Dept. of Workforce and Economic Development
- Karsten Heise, Director, Strategic Programs, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development; Board Member, Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy
- Sara Jones, President, Califa Group; Director, Marin County Free Library
- Forrest Lewis, President, Nevada Library Association and Director, North Las Vegas Library District
- Jeff Scott, Director, Washoe County Library System
- Tammy Westergard, Nevada State Librarian
- Natasha Dackota York, Student, College of Southern Nevada

The public can register to attend here:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bdLO8kZyTXCF_D7cS2phcQ

To learn more about the pilot workforce recovery project, visit

https://nsla.nv.gov/CSN_XR_Education_Portal

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