

The Ely Times

Reno to host Economic Development Conference

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An ambitious, wide-ranging look at economic development across northern Nevada is expected to draw up to 500 of the region's leaders to Reno for the Nevada Economic Development Conference Scheduled for May 19-21, it will be held at the Joe Crowley Student Union on the University of Nevada, Reno, campus.

Discussion will range from an analysis of the economic impact of the Tesla gigafactory to the strategic use of social media by the tourism industry to tools and programs to recruit, retain and develop workforce. Subject matter experts speaking at the conference include Nevada experts as well as presenters from across the nation.

“Northern Nevada has seen a remarkable recovery since the darkest days of the recession,” said Dean Haymore, Board President of the Western Nevada Development Agency. “This conference is an opportunity to take a close look at our progress and, more important, to begin moving toward our next set of goals.”

Western Nevada Development District has joined forces with the College of Business at the University of Nevada, Reno, and USDA Rural Development to present the three-day Nevada Economic Development Conference.

Top executives of large and small companies, economic-development experts, elected officials and leaders of government and nonprofit organizations will be rubbing shoulders and sharing ideas during the three-day premier event.

“The opportunities to network and share ideas informally is one of the most valuable aspects of this conference,” said Haymore. “The sparks of creativity begin flying when the region's best thinkers inspire one another.”

Nationally recognized experts in creative economic development and workforce development will deliver keynote presentations during the conference, and eight tracks will provide in-depth looks at cornerstones of economic growth.

Keynoters will include Don Macke and Deborah Markley, co-founders of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship; Patrick McGaughey, a nationally known expert on win-win negotiations and the creation of business-education partnerships; and Jason Broadwater, author of six books and an expert on creative community development.

Center for Rural Entrepreneurship

Focus subjects in conference tracks will include access to capital, agri-business, economic vitality, energy, manufacturing, tourism, transportation and workforce development.

Half day institutes and tours will provide detailed looks at key topics in the region's economic development:

Tours include Tahoe Reno Industrial Center Tour, Spotlight on Nevada's Agribusiness Industry, Reno Start Up Row and Institutes subjects include expert presentations on Making small towns the location of choice, the Development of Carson City's Innovation District, and Investment in parks and recreation as a tool to attract businesses and jobs.

The Nevada Economic Development Conference is presented by the Western Nevada Development District, the College of Business at the University of Nevada, Reno, and USDA Rural Development. Early bird registration for the conference is \$125. After April 30 the fee is \$150. Conference fee includes lunch for Wed. and Thurs. including lunch programs.

For additional information on registration, call 775-883-7333 ext. 2000.

The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship's mission is to help community leaders build a prosperous future by supporting and empowering business, social and civic entrepreneurs. With our roots and hearts in rural America, we help communities of all sizes and interests by bringing *empowering research* together with *effective community engagement* to advance *community-driven strategies* for prosperity.

Our **Solution Area Teams** empower community leaders to find their own answers to the economic development challenges and opportunities they face:

- **Community Development Philanthropy** provides effective strategies to build local philanthropic capacity and generate development resources.
- **New Generation Partnerships** provides a framework for engaging young people now and attracting them in the future.
- **Entrepreneurial Communities** provides a roadmap for designing and delivering entrepreneurship strategies that work.

For tools and resources, visit the departments in e2 University at <http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org/library/e2university.html>.

To learn more about the Center, go to www.energizingentrepreneurs.org.

421 S. 9th Street, Suite 245
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 323-7336