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## **Nevada GOED Partners with Great Basin College to Create Diesel Technology Program to Serve Students in Rural Nevada**

**ELY, Nev.** – With the need for diesel mechanics growing in rural Nevada, the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) partnered with Great Basin College to create an elite technical education program in Ely to support the employment needs of the area's industries.

GOED used a Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada (WINN) grant to help the Elko-based college to recreate its lauded diesel technology program in Ely with nearby mining industry employers saying they will need more than 100 qualified mechanics in the next year.

"Helping Great Basin College creates valuable training coupled with great employment opportunities, which will empower the community for years to come," Gov. Steve Sisolak said. "The WINN program is helping Nevadans get the training they need to meet the needs of employers that will keep our economy growing."

Great Basin College created the 32.5 credit diesel technology training program in Ely modeled after the popular program in Elko. GOED provided more than \$480,000 in funding to get the program started in Ely, including the purchase of needed tools, equipment and diagnostic computers and software. The grant also provided tuition-free training for the first class of 10 high school students and six adult students. The students started the training classes held at the White Pine High School in January and will complete the training courses by the end of the year.

"These hard-working Nevadans are learning a skill that employers in our state need through the use of the WINN program," said GOED Interim Executive Director Kristopher Sanchez. "GOED entered into this partnership with Great Basin College to provide a technical education in Ely to ensure that our mining industry isn't hindered by the need for qualified diesel technicians, and the Ely community continues its economic growth."

The WINN grant program was created in 2015 by the Nevada Legislature to help develop a highly skilled and diverse workforce. Since the inception of the program, more than \$8 million has been awarded to community colleges and universities to help equip Nevada workers with skills needed by employers. More than 1,000 Nevadans have received training through WINN-funded projects for

employment opportunities. The average wage for diesel technicians in rural Nevada is more than \$60,000 a year.

“Great Basin College wanted to offer the diesel technology program in Ely to respond to a need of the industry in rural Nevada and to also provide access to education to our students in the area,” said Great Basin College President Joyce Helens. “We are grateful to Gov. Sisolak and GOED for partnering with Great Basin to offer this much-needed training program to our students.”

The students attend three hours of classes, four days a week and a welding class one night a week for the program. The completion of the program provides the students with the technical courses they need to be employable as a diesel mechanic and allows them to complete an additional 23 credits for a Certificate of Achievement in Diesel Technology or a full Associate of Applied Science degree.

For more information about the Great Basin College Diesel Technology program, please visit [gbcnv.edu](http://gbcnv.edu).

For more information about the Nevada GOED’s WINN grants, please visit [diversifynevada.com](http://diversifynevada.com).

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### **About the Governor’s Office of Economic Development**

Created during the 2011 session of the Nevada Legislature, the [Governor’s Office of Economic Development](#) is the result of a collaborative effort between the Nevada Legislature and the Governor’s Office to restructure economic development in the state. GOED’s role is to promote a robust, diversified and prosperous economy in Nevada, to stimulate business expansion and retention, encourage entrepreneurial enterprise, attract new businesses and facilitate community development. More information on the Governor’s Office of Economic Development can be viewed at [diversifynevada.com](http://diversifynevada.com).