

Nevada Manufacturers Association
963 Topsy Lane Ste 306-182
Carson City, NV 89705-8417
775-882-6662 / cell 775-771-8550

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TO: Mo Denis, Chair, Legislative Interim Education and Cmte Members

FROM: Ray Bacon

SUBJECT: Your tour of Desert Rose and related issues

This morning I believe some of you were at SECTA to see what a newer CCSD's CTE program focused getting student the skills the need to the high demand jobs in manufacturing. Remember, this facility had its main building imploded about six years ago and now is primarily housed in portables. Today it is preparing students for the good non-college degree careers in the new economy. Last summer SECTA students got jobs starting at over \$30k at Tesla and Panasonic. The skills these students are learning will open doors for them in most manufacturing companies, many construction companies, the data information sector and probably in other areas.

If they decide they want to go to college straight from High School or several years later, the door will be open for the them to go as far as they want to go partially because the skills learned in these programs. The CTE programs and schools are routinely taking the average students who apply and get into these programs (usually in a lottery) to high graduation rates, jobs and careers or into college programs with the high odds of completing certificates, AAS or four years degrees in demanding future careers areas.

A couple of sessions ago you created Zoom and Victory school using categorical funding to take those entering our schools with the least likely chances of success and providing the focused support, extra help and instructions to get them on a path to success. Our problems are deeper than just fixing the early years. We have students from schools across the spectrum arriving in our high school not prepared for the rigors of the math and science leading to the great careers being created in this state. CTE programs are successful because students apply the math, science and reading skills needed for the rest of their lives. You chose to use targeted funding above the DSA to fix the front end our education system to get the student off to a much better start. Don't drop the ball.

You need to start the process now to define and improve the middle school process, so those students on the path to success don't tune out and mentally drop out in middle school. The leading edge of the zoom/victory school kids are only a year or two away from middle schools. Less but more rigorous testing with career exposure and options are probably key.

Today's older zoom/victory school kids are four years or two legislative sessions away from being candidates for the CTE programs and a career path. You know the CTE schools and programs work across the state produce results.

Prior to Governor Sandoval taking office, DETR had created sector councils to focus on employers in our world of recession recovery and a changing world for technology careers. The original effort was messy at best, but GOED, DETR and others defined the targeted careers which have made the CTE programs in high schools and the college level much better than only a few years ago. Today as Nevada is back near the top for job growth, the QUALITY of programs is solid and still improving. The quantity of our output is still far behind the growth employers need. The latest DETR numbers show the job demands in manufacturing and construction these past two years up to eight times the prior two years. The medical and IT field are on their continual growth rate from the last few years.

The purpose of this note is simple; it is time to consider some type of categorical funding for the CTE programs to reach the volumes needed probably within the DSA and/or college funding. The funding needs to be broad, because the needs vary by area and site. Most of the CTE programs require more electrical power than most schools have available. Often expensive equipment is needed, but usually it can be shared between college and High Schools students as in both Reno and Las Vegas. The programs need to focus on schooling years 9-14 with dual credit and students in buildings with the right equipment/program regardless of the name on the front door. Finding teachers for the CTE positions has been tough at both levels. These programs are our future and you need to provide clear legislative guidance to the licensing people to meet the existing demand and the ability to create new programs as needed.

If we have truly improved the foundational skills with zoom and victory, then we need to insure we finish the path to success by enhancing end of the school careers with meaningful CTE programs and adequate capacity to match student and employer needs.