

## **Southern Nevada Businesses & Nonprofits Join Forces to Up-Skill Workers for Region's Future Job Demands**

One of the most important building blocks for a strong, sustainable Las Vegas economy is the development of a talented workforce to stay competitive and drive responsible growth.

Even though I work for a bank, I often spend just as much time speaking with business owners and other leaders about people than I do about capital – underscoring the fact that a top business concern these days is attracting qualified people from a shrinking pool of talent.

My own employer, Bank of America, has made workforce development a top philanthropic priority with the region's tremendous nonprofit and academic sectors. Our focus is to help prepare new and returning talent for the job skills needs of tomorrow, and to develop strategies that better connect the needs of employers with training providers.

Recently, the bank awarded \$325,000 in grants to 27 local nonprofits that provide educational and workforce development services to young adults and people from economically disadvantaged communities. Many of these outstanding organizations offer supportive wrap around services fundamental to building lifelong stability.

This includes a grant to the [Service Corps of Retired Executives Association \(SCORE\)](#), a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration, where funding is used to provide a wide range of services such as mentoring, online courses, library resources, workshops and roundtables to potential small business owners striving to get their dream off the ground. With support from Bank of America, SCORE focuses on its goal of providing resources to foster vibrant small business communities that in turn drive the work force and create economic growth.

Another partner doing great work in this space is [Jobs for America's Graduates Nevada](#) which goes beyond resume writing with an integrated approach to workforce development that addresses factors like education, workplace readiness, leadership and supportive services that are key to empowering people to attain sustainable jobs.

Grant recipient [Tech Impact](#) puts grant funding to use through multiple avenues including their ITWorks program that helps young adults move into a career in information technology. This award winning program streamlines the hiring process with assistance in training, certifications and the overall experience needed to compete for a position in the field of IT. At Bank of America, we recognize this as an ever-growing career field that has the power to transform lives and communities.

We are honored to partner with organizations making such impactful contributions to our Las Vegas business community.

### **Al Welch**

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