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PRESS RELEASE

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DETR to Hold Kick Off Events for Program to Help Long Term Unemployed

Las Vegas, NV —The Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) will hold a business lunch, discussion and orientation on July 27, 2015 at noon to officially kick off Platform to Employment (P2E), a nationally recognized program addressing the specific needs of long-term unemployed workers. It will be held at Vegas PBS at 3050 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121.

The two-part event will welcome the second cohort selected in Las Vegas. Business leaders and members of the media are invited to attend. The kick-off will include remarks by invited business leaders, DETR officials and P2E executives. An overview of the P2E program goals and expectations will also be provided.

P2E is specifically for individuals who have been unemployed 27 or more weeks or have exhausted their unemployment benefits, said Renee Olson, administrator for DETR's Employment Security Division. Nevada currently has about 46,000 long term unemployed. In October 2014, P2E ran a pilot class in Las Vegas where over 68 percent of graduates were able to successfully return to work. In Reno, where the program launched in February, 73 percent of the graduates returned to work.

“We are pleased with the outcomes of the initial implementation of the program,” said Renee Olson, administrator for DETR's Employment Security Division. “Participants who have successfully completed the program are grateful for the opportunity to receive special assistance in becoming work ready. Jobseekers who have been out of work for an extended period of time may find it difficult to transition back into the workforce.”

Nevada was among 32 states to be awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to assist Nevada's long-term unemployed jobseekers in re-entering the workforce, Olson said. The grant totaling \$1,830,497 was awarded through the Job-Driven National Emergency Grant program.

DETR is partnering with The WorkPlace, southwestern Connecticut's regional Workforce Development Board, to bring P2E to Las Vegas. P2E offers individuals a five-week preparatory program, including skills assessment, career readiness workshops, employee assistance programs, coaching and more. After completing the program, P2E assists participants in finding employment.

Placements are made on a trial basis, and are paid for by the program. The expectation is a fulltime job will result, if the employer is satisfied with the performance of the candidate, Olson said. P2E subsidizes the wages of the job candidate for up to eight weeks, providing employers a risk-free opportunity to evaluate the candidate and determine if a good match exists.

P2E is a proven model that demonstrates that the right job readiness programming, combined with personal and family support services and financial counseling, can return the long-term unemployed to the workforce. Tested in multiple cohorts, including participants from urban and suburban communities, P2E has placed 80 percent of program participants into work experience programs, with nearly 90 percent of these individuals moving on to full-time employment, said Joseph Carbone, President and CEO of The WorkPlace.

“Platform to Employment provides the tools and resources needed to return the long-term unemployed to work,” Carbone said. “The program provides hope and opportunity for workers that are frequently overlooked when hiring, and we look forward to continuing work in Las Vegas.”

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DETR is comprised of the Employment Security Division, Equal Rights Commission, Rehabilitation Division, and the Research and Analysis Bureau. DETR works in partnership with the Nevada JobConnect System to provide training and job placement services to job seekers and to assist employers in hiring practices. It also supports economic development efforts through improving Nevada's workforce.