



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
OFFICE OF THE LABOR COMMISSIONER  
NEVADA STATE APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL  
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**NEVADA STATE APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL SIMILAR PROGRAMS  
MEETING MINUTES – June 13, 2024**

Nevada State Apprenticeship Council (NSAC) members present: Chairman Archie Walden, Vice-Chairman Jeremy Newman, Ryan Bellows, Steve Ingersoll, Madison Burnett, Mike Kennedy, Mandi Wilkins, Craig Statucki, Dr. Natalie Brown.

Also present: Toni Giddens, Todd Weiss, Corinna Pereira

**1. Call to Order.**

Chairman Walden called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

**2. Roll Call and Quorum.**

Per direction from Chairman Walden, State Apprenticeship Director Giddens took a roll call and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**3. Verification of Public Posting.**

Director Giddens affirmed pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Section 241.020, the Nevada Open Meeting Law, that the agenda and notice for the meeting were properly posted.

**4. Public Comment.**

Chairman Walden called for public comment. Allan Lazoya, Jason Mitchell, Chris Marshall, Denise Sikalla, Paul Enigs, Dan Corsi, Justin Adams, Jain Chen, and Tom Young all gave public comment in support of the Veterans Stand Together program.

**5. New Program Standards and Apprenticeship Agreement.**

Chair Walden called for a representative of Nevada Power to present their proposed program. Prior to the presentation, Council Members Ryan Bellows and Jeremy Newman recused themselves from this item. Dominick Kenzie with Nevada power presented on the Telecommunications Technician position that is being reinstated with some changes based on updated technology. Chairman Walden asked for any questions from the council,

hearing none a motion for approval was called. Madison Burnett motioned for approval, and Mandi Wilkins seconded the motion. A vote was taken with four in favor and 2 abstentions. Motion carried.

## **6. New Program Standards and Apprenticeship Agreement.**

Chair Walden called for a representative of Veterans Stand Together to present their proposed program. Claudia Dzul and John Alvarez of Veterans Stand Together were present to represent the program. Mr. Alvarez asked the council about their ability to ask questions or vote on this program. He addressed that during the last hearing Council Member Wilkins did not recuse herself until just prior to the vote, however was available to ask questions even though she is a member of the Local 525 committee. Mr. Alvarez then read off a list of the council members and their affiliations and asked for anyone being a part of the local 525 to recuse themselves. Chair Walden responded that this was not necessary and that as a member of the Council, Ms. Wilkins has a right to ask questions whether she is recusing herself or not. Mr. Alvarez then provided responses to the objections of the Local 525. Mr. Alvarez also discussed current state regulations and why he believes his program should be approved.

Chair Walden called on a representative from Local 525 to speak. Bryce Loveland, attorney for the 525 JATC and Crystal Nagel the Apprenticeship Coordinator were present and provided response to the proposed program and why it does not meet apprenticeship standards under NRS 610.

Chair Walden asked Veterans Stand Together if they had a rebuttal. John Alvarez asked their expert Jason Mitchel to present the rebuttal.

Chair Walden stated that the program can only be voted on based on the parameters given to the council, and that programs that do not meet those parameters cannot be approved.

John Alvarez provided further rebuttal to the Training Trust objections.

Chair Walden asked for rebuttal from Local 525, rebuttal was provided by Mr. Loveland. Chair Walden asked the Council if there were any questions. Council Member Burnett asked Mr. Alvarez what his rebuttal was. Mr. Burnett stated that Council Members must ensure that proposed programs match existing programs including wages. Mr. Burnett asked if the 5910 wages included benefits. Mr. Alvarez stated that the wages were not inclusive of benefits. Mr. Burnett asked if the wages for Local 525 did include benefits to which Mr. Loveland stated they did. Chair Walden asked if it is stated in VST Standards that they will not work on Public Works projects. Mr. Alvarez stated it was, in section 12 in the last paragraph. Mr. Walden also asked to confirm that the classroom portion was being provided by CSN. Mr. Alvarez confirmed this. Chair Walden then asked if the classes provided by CSN would be paid for by the apprentices or by the program. Mr. Alvarez stated that they would be paid for either by them or through other means such as financial benefits. Chair Walden asked to verify that apprentices are not to pay for anything outside of books, tools and such items. Director Giddens affirmed this is correct per Nevada Statutes. Mr. Alvarez stated that they were looking into WIOA and other grant funding programs. Council Member Newman asked Mr. Alvarez to clarify if there was a funding mechanism in place other than grant or WIOA funding. Mr. Alvarez states that it was through grant sponsorships. Mr. Newman clarified that the program did not have a funding

mechanism in place to fund the apprenticeship. Mr. Alvarez stated that they do not have a trust. Chair Walden asked who would be representing the apprentices in case of a dispute on the job site and how the program would be run. Mr. Alvarez stated that they would be assisting apprentices if there are any issues. Chair Walden asked if there is an apprenticeship coordinator. Mr. Alvarez stated that they would, and Claudia Dzul would be the point of contact. Chair Walden clarified that Ms. Dzul would be representing the apprentices and not the contract. Ms. Dzul affirmed this. Council Member Burnett stated that while a lot was covered, the question from the previous hearing that the program is a similar program based on O\*NET code and that guidelines that must be adhered to are that VST standards must meet or exceed the standards of an existing program, and this is what the Council is working through. Mr. Ingersoll asked how VST is funded. Mr. Alvarez stated that yes, they are funded through grants, fundraising as they are a 501C3. Mr. Ingersoll then asked Ms. Dzul if there is discipline or any type of issue with the apprentice during the program that Claudia would be working directly with them. MR. Alvarez affirmed this. Chair Walden asked for a motion to approve the program for VST. Hearing no motion, the Chair asked if the council had any additional questions. Council Member Wilkins stated that she wanted to put on the record that she is recusing herself from this agenda item. Council Member Burnett stated that with the information that was gathered, he would motion to deny the program at this time. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ingersoll. With 5 ayes and one abstention the motion to deny carried.

#### **7. Public Comment.**

Chairman Walden called for public comment. Claudia Dzul asked if the council could provide a reason for the opposition to the program. Council Member Burnett stated that from the information heard during this hearing from both sides and all the objections and rebuttal that is how he came to his decision. Chair Walden relayed that this was time for public comment, not questioning or conversation and requested VST communicate with the Apprenticeship Director or Labor Commissioner.

Jason Mitchell with CSN, and George Casias with VST provided public comment.

#### **8. Adjournment.**

Chairman Walden adjourned the meeting of the Nevada State Apprenticeship Council at 10:54 AM.