



# NSCB News Release



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## **CONTRACTORS BOARD AND COMMISSION ON CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION SUPPORT INITIATIVES TO INCREASE CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE**

**HENDERSON, Nev.** – The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) joined the Nevada Commission on Construction Education (Commission), Associated General Contractors and Nevada Contractors Association (AGC/NCA) Las Vegas Chapter and AGC of America today in a press event to shed light on Nevada’s construction workforce shortages as a result of the latest economic downturn. AGC’s data, however, does indicate that construction employment is picking up steam, with more than half of the 14,000 new construction jobs coming in the last year.

Ken Simonson, Chief Economist for the Associated General Contractors of America, noted half of Nevada’s construction firms are finding it difficult to fill craft worker positions. Sean Stewart, AGC/NCA Las Vegas Chapter President, highlighted education, training, and other workforce development initiatives being offered through their association, calling special attention to grant funding received by the Commission in recent years as an integral contributor. Commission member Shawn Danoski addressed the Commission’s responsibility for reviewing program proposals and awarding grant funding from the Construction Education Fund, which has provided over \$2.7 million in grant awards since its inception.

“We at the Contractors Board have seen the impact of the economic downturn on the construction community in recent years, and we support the efforts being made by the Commission, educational systems, apprenticeship programs, and the construction industry as a whole to make workforce development a priority for current and future generations,” stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein.

Simonson unveiled AGC’s Workforce Development Plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which includes calls for government and private-sector investment and legal reforms to increase the construction labor pool: federal funding of technical education, encouraging private funding for craft worker training, immigration reform and (more)

public-private partnerships among apprenticeship programs, community colleges, veteran's service providers, etc.

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