



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 20, 2015

**DATE:** September 30, 2015  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners and  
Library Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Arnie Maurins, Library Director  
327-8340; amaurins@washoecounty.us  
**SUBJECT:** Acknowledge staff report on the Library's Manufacturing Technician 1  
and Entrepreneurship Outreach Network initiatives (All Commission  
Districts)

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### SUMMARY

Staff requests that the Board of County Commissioners and Library Board of Trustees acknowledge the staff report on the Library's Manufacturing Technician 1 and Entrepreneurship Outreach Network initiatives.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Supporting Development of the Regional Economy and Jobs

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On July 14, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners accepted a \$15,000 grant (\$10,000 from the Governor's Office on Economic Development, \$5,000 from EDawn) to facilitate the provision of Manufacturing Technician 1 training by Library staff.

### BACKGROUND

#### Manufacturing Technician 1 (MT-1) Training

As developed by the Manufacturing Skills Institute (MSI), the complete MT-1 curriculum comprises approximately 100 hours of instruction, covering topics such as mechanics, spatial reasoning, manufacturing-related mathematics, thermodynamics, chemistry, business acumen and teamwork. John Crockett, Managing Librarian at Sierra View Library, and Jonnica McClure, Librarian I at Sparks Library, have both completed an MSI-developed, 20-hour train-the-trainer class. Mr. Crockett and Ms. McClure are

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currently planning how and where the Library's classes will be offered, with a goal of starting an initial cohort in December or January.

The grant funding also provides access to the online MT-1 curriculum for individual study. In addition, Washoe County Library System will obtain certification as an MSI Assessment Center, enabling one or more branches to serve in this capacity to administer the MT-1 Exam to those who have either completed the instructor-led course, or else prepared themselves via the online material.

In offering MT-1 training, the Library is supporting and extending "Nevada's Working Capital," a larger-scale program that the Carson City Library and Western Nevada College are putting on with the help of a federal grant.

### Entrepreneurship Outreach Network

In late June 2015, the Library and EDAWN obtained a free, one-year joint membership in the Entrepreneurship Outreach Network (EON), a program sponsored by Arizona State University's (ASU) Entrepreneurship + Innovation Center. Under the program, public libraries partner with economic-development organizations to offer ASU's Startup School classes, along with related programs and services, to prospective entrepreneurs. The EON membership is free thanks to funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

In mid-September, Doug Erwin, EDAWN's Vice-President of Entrepreneurial Development, gave a presentation to about a dozen Library staff about EDAWN's role in supporting entrepreneurs, and he and they began a dialogue about ways in which the Library can contribute to the "entrepreneurial eco-system."

SkySong, the ASU Innovation Center in Scottsdale, is hosting train-the-trainer classes October 13-15, 2015. Morgan Tiar, Library Assistant III at South Valleys Library, and Estella Hunt, Director of CUBE and Managing Partner at Pivot Partners, LLC, are attending this training, after which they will serve as facilitators for Startup School classes at selected library branches in the County.

In addition to the upcoming classes, other Library services to entrepreneurs include:

- Co-working spaces at several branches
- Free wifi at most branches
- ReferenceUSA, an online tool for finding new business opportunities, conducting market research and researching executives and companies
- lynda.com, a high-quality, video-based online training database covering thousands of topics in business and other fields

Internal discussions are ongoing about additional programs and services the Library could provide to support entrepreneurial activity. As one example, staff may be evaluating DreamBuilder, an online course for women entrepreneurs, as a resource to provide via the Library's website or through guided instruction.

### FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Acknowledge the staff report on the Library's Manufacturing Technician 1 and Entrepreneurship Outreach Network initiatives.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

If the two Boards accept staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: Move to acknowledge the staff report on the Library's Manufacturing Technician 1 and Entrepreneurship Outreach Network initiatives.