The Nevada Center of Excellence (COE) will drive the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) innovation initiatives and will serve as a basis for a new public and private sector collaboration to drive economic development. Combining domain expertise from the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) institutions and IBM’s advanced computing technologies, COEs throughout the state will deliver high-value shared services to public and private sector clients while building job skills and assisting the Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) to grow the workforce for tomorrow.

The first of these COEs will leverage the world-renowned expertise of DRI and the other NSHE institutions in the field of hydrologic sciences. This Las Vegas-based COE will deliver services in water resource management and big data analytics.

“"We must invest in Nevada’s innovators and entrepreneurs.””
—GOVERNOR BRIAN SANDOVAL, 2013 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

INNOVATION-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- Focusing applied research to transition commercially viable technologies from academia to the private sector in order to drive sustainable economic growth.
- New technology commercialization will build regional expertise, resulting in a highly skilled workforce that will attract industry-leading companies.
- Growing high value jobs with “new economy” skills will open long-term career opportunities for Nevada residents.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE JOINT-VENTURE TO DRIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- This unique joint-venture between GOED, DETR, NSHE, IBM and other private businesses is a model that has proven successful throughout the U.S. and around the globe.
- The resources and strengths of each partner will create a new economic development model focused on growing from within using existing knowledge and expertise.

WATER – A UNIQUE COLLECTION OF EXPERTISE – A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO LEVERAGE
- As fresh water becomes a scarcer resource, it grows as a global factor affecting quality of life and limiting economic development.
- DRI’s and its sister institutions in NSHE, as well as SNWAs, renowned expertise in water assessment, characterization and technology can address a broad range of problems facing a broad range of clients.
- Nevada is poised to become a unique resource to address national and global challenges related to water resource sustainability and management.
COE BUSINESS MODEL
• As a joint-venture between academia and the public and private sectors, the COE will become a place where each partner brings important resources to create a mechanism to accelerate the economic development cycle.
• Applied research leading to technology commercialization through formation of new companies and licensing, will build regional expertise in technology.
• Delivering high value shared services to a broad range of public and private sector clients based on this regional technical expertise will provide a training ground for a new economy workforce.
• Development of an advanced workforce with core technology skills and domain expertise that meet employers’ needs will attract other technology focused companies to Nevada.

ADVANCED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
• Developing new economy, technology-based skills will be critical to building the workforce for tomorrow.
• Focusing on existing technical expertise and training workers in these fields will create a sustainable ecosystem for economic development and job growth.
• Knowledge workers with expertise ranging from basic information technology skills to high level big data analytics skills will be trained and employed by the COE and NSHE institutions to deliver high value services.
• These new knowledge-based skills will be highly transferrable to other employers building the advanced workforce companies need in order to grow.

THE ENGINE OF INNOVATION
• IBM’s PureSystems expert systems will provide a powerful cloud-based infrastructure to manage big data projects.
• The water-focused COE in Las Vegas as well as other planned COEs throughout the state will utilize the PureSystems capabilities to deliver high-value “shared” services to a broad range of clients in the private and public sectors throughout the U.S. and around the world.
• The advanced visualization technologies developed by DRI will allow researchers and clients to become immersed in big data representations to promote fact-based decision-making of complex issues.

CONTACT
Dr. Stephen G. Wells, President
2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512
RENO: 775/673-7311 | LAS VEGAS: 702/862-5406
EMAIL: stephen.wells@dri.edu
WEBSITE: http://www.dri.edu