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PRESS RELEASE

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DETR continues filling leadership roles to address the future of the agency: Chris Sewell named as Chief Operating Officer; Lynda Parven promoted to ESD Administrator

CARSON CITY, NV - Chris Sewell was recently named as the Chief Operating Officer and Lynda Parven has been promoted to Employment Security Division (ESD) Administrator of the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). They started in their new positions yesterday, Monday, November 2, 2020.

"As we make changes and move forward, we are looking at long-term staffing so DETR can fulfill all parts of its mission. We are delighted to promote Chris Sewell and Lynda Parven, filling out our leadership team. As the economy reopens, more Nevadans will need the workforce training and support," said DETR Director, Elisa Cafferata. "Chris Sewell's legislative expertise is critical as we head into the next legislative session. And Lynda Parven's workforce experience will help put Nevadans back to work."

As Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Sewell oversees the operational and support units critical for DETR to deliver programs: Operations and Facilities, Human Resources, Audits, Public Information, and Information Development Processes. He will also continue in his role as legislative liaison.

"I am excited to help DETR move into its next era as we move out of the pandemic. The state needs DETR's services more than ever. I would like to thank Director Cafferata for giving me the opportunity to work with her Executive Team and to help all Nevadans and Nevada families move forward," said Chris Sewell.

Mr. Sewell has dedicated his career to helping Nevadans. He started his State experience with the Nevada Transportation Authority as an Investigator and has also worked for the Public Utilities Commission as a Financial Analyst, Senior Compliance Investigator and Manager in the Consumer Unit. He moved to Las Vegas and worked for the Division of Insurance in the Compliance Unit and with the Real Estate Division as Chief of the Compliance/Audit Unit. Prior to his State service, Mr. Sewell was a Washoe County Deputy Sheriff and a Washoe County School District Police Officer. In addition, he has been a small business owner in Reno.

Lynda Parven has taken on the position of Employment Security Division Administrator and oversee workforce development, unemployment compensation including legal and appeals as well as the Commission on Post-Secondary Education.

“I am looking forward to helping Nevadans in this new role, which is a continuation of the work I’ve done. This year has brought unique challenges to the division, and I am dedicated to working with the rest of the administration in addressing them,” said Lynda Parven, ESD Administrator.

Lynda is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and possesses both Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration degrees. She is a twenty-nine-year veteran with the State of Nevada and began her career in public service with the Welfare Division from 1991 to 2001. She is an experienced manager having held the position of Administrator of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission for approximately four years. Formerly, Lynda was the Deputy Administrator for the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation’s Employment Security Division (DETR/ESD). As Deputy Administrator, Lynda oversaw statewide Workforce Development programs, Nevada JobConnect offices, and the Career Enhancement Program, as well as ESD’s Workforce Investment Support Services unit and the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Unit. She was also responsible for implementing the ESD role in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Silver State Works Initiative. In addition, Lynda championed the Nevada Workforce System transformation to EmployNV, the state’s workforce case management and online job resource where businesses can post job listings and job seekers can find local and statewide employment and labor market information.

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ABOUT DETR: The Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation (DETR) is the state’s lead workforce development agency. It consists of divisions that offer workforce related services, job placement and training, services for people with disabilities, investigation of claims of discrimination, unemployment insurance benefits, labor market data and more. Many of these services are provided through Nevada JobConnect career centers and in cooperation with its community partners.