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PRESS RELEASE

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Drazen Elez named new Administrator for DETR's Rehabilitation Division

CARSON CITY, NV -Drazen Elez was recently named as Administrator of the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitations (DETR) Rehabilitation Division. Mr. Elez's official first day began last month.

"We are delighted to have Drazen as our new Administrator for the Rehabilitation Division. He has been working in the Rehabilitation Division for nearly 10 years. We are confident that his history with the agency and his commitment to the success of our clients will greatly benefit this critical program. Drazen has joined our leadership team and is already bringing new energy and ideas to our work." said DETR Director, Elisa Cafferata.

As the Rehabilitation Division Administrator, Mr. Elez is charged with oversight of Nevada's vocational rehabilitation and blind enterprise programs which are designed to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities. He also oversees the state's determination of eligibility for Social Security disability and supplemental security income.

"I look forward to moving the Division forward after last year's unique challenges and am committed to continuing to improve how Rehabilitation serves our clients. I am dedicated to working with the rest of the administration in addressing the many opportunities ahead for the division," said Elez.

Mr. Elez brings nearly 10 years of experience in management, budget planning, program development and implementation of specialized programs for people with disabilities to enter the workforce as well as the Business Enterprises of Nevada program.

Prior to his appointment as Administrator of the Division, he served as Deputy Administrator and oversaw the Division's budget, fiscal management, technical activities and regulatory compliance. He was also responsible for the oversight of the Blind Business Enterprise of Nevada program, the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work Program and the Division's Contracts unit. While

Deputy, he initiated and led the project of E-Signature implementation, which led to significant improvement in processing client's paperwork as well as other documents. He also led the project of implementing fiscal processes around Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) funding, developed projecting and tracking tools, received U.S. Department of Education approval for expanding use of these funds leading to national recognition for the agency's operational rollout.

Prior to being Deputy Administrator, he was the Chief Enterprise Officer for Business Enterprises of Nevada (BEN) program where he improved program's performance to one of the most progressive and respected in the country and also championed the project of redesigning the agency's Blind Licenses Training program, which became a national model. Before joining DETR, Mr. Elez worked in various management roles at a national retailer.

Outside of work, Mr. Elez enjoys reading, music, running, soccer, and basketball. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University, with a Master of Business Administration and holds a Bachelor's in Economics (Cum Laude) from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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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.

ABOUT THE REHABILITATION DIVISION FUNDING:

DETR receives funding from US Dept. of Education for Nevada Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Supported Employment (SE), and/or the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who are Blind (OIB) programs. For VR: the Federal VR grant paid 78.7% of program costs. In FFY2019, Nevada VR received \$19,623,751 in Federal VR funds. Non-Federal funds paid 21.3% of costs (\$5,311,130). For SE: Federal grant paid 95% of costs. In FFY2019, Nevada VR received \$69,685 in Federal SE funds. Non-Federal funds sources paid 5% (\$4,003) of costs. For OIB: Federal funds paid 90% of costs. In FFY2019, Nevada received \$221,143 in Federal OIB funds. Non-Federal funds paid 10% (\$24,571) of costs.