

High-tech reps say Nevada needs skilled workforce

By Guy Clifton, Reno Gazette-Journal

Industry leaders told Nevada policy makers the No. 1 challenge the state faces in luring high-tech business to the state is the lack of a trained and educated workforce.

Kevin Whitney of TechAmerica, an advocacy group that represents 1,200 high-tech companies across the country, said an hour-long discussion with state Legislative leaders and the governor's office focused on issues the state faces in luring such companies to move to the state or expand existing businesses.

"Many of those issues centered around a lack of workforce development and skills acquisitions that our companies require to relocate or expand our operations, here in the state of Nevada," Whitney said. "Oftentimes what you see is these companies come here to do a project and unfortunately have to import their workforce from other states."

Capgemini, a tech firm working on the Nevada Business Portal and with the state department of employment and training, found those challenges firsthand, said company executive Kevin Doyle.

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