

Journal #4876 from sdc 2.16.20

Indian Country and Covid

Invisalign® ChangeMakers Initiative

Macmillan Children's School & Library ·

California water users petition to end proposed Klamath River dam demolition

GrantStation

Global Hope Challenge kicks off in conjunction with iFred's Hopeful Cities

Barbados To Remove Queen Elizabeth as Head of State

Native American Brothers Pan Flute Rendition of "Unchained Melody" Goes Viral

Scientists Are Pretty Sure They've Found a Portal to the Fifth Dimension

Tesla pledged to donate \$37.5m to K-12 in Nevada. But there are caveats.

It turns out installing solar panels on your house actually benefits your whole community.

Facing A Reckoning, Wyoming Wrestles With A Transition From Fossil Fuels

Salesforce declares the 9-to-5 workday dead, will let some employees work remotely from now on

Indian Country Today Speaker's Bureau



Nevada Snow People

Tribes are racing ahead of vaccination curve

By Joaqlin Estus

How is the Indian health system doing on vaccine distribution? “We're doing better than most states and counties in the country,” said Abigail Echo-Hawk .. [continue reading](#)

How tribes spent COVID relief funds

By Joaqlin Estus

A year ago as cases of COVID-19 cropped up, tribes began pivoting from business as usual to disease prevention. Some hoped the disease would pass them by. Others got hit hard right away ... [continue reading](#)



[Photo courtesy of Tasha Hotch]

New relief bill includes \$20B for tribes

By Collin Binkley, Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats muscled past Republicans on portions of President Joe Biden's pandemic plan, including \$20 billion for tribal governments ... [continue reading](#)

We want to hear how your teen is creating change. 100 young people will be celebrated and awarded \$5,000 from the Invisalign® brand by applying for the **Invisalign® ChangeMakers Initiative** by March 31, 2021. All teens age 13 – 19 are eligible to apply for one of 100 awards by sharing how they're making positive change in their communities.

About this partnership

invisalign.com

[Celebrate Deserving Teens](#)

[Reward Deserving Teens with \\$5K](#)

[Macmillan Children's School & Library](#)

Calling all teachers! Here's your chance to win our 2021 award-winning children's books.



read.macmillan.com

[Award-Winning Children's Books](#)

[Sweepstakes](#)

[California water users petition to end proposed Klamath River dam demolition](#)

By The Blue Mountain Eagle, 2/10/21

A Northern California water users' association has filed a motion against a \$450 million plan to tear down four dams on the Klamath River they claim irrevocably hurts local homeowners.

GrantStation

COVID-19 Related Funding

Current COVID-19 funding opportunities are available on our [website](#).

National Opportunities

[Support for Domestic Violence Shelters Nationwide](#)

The Mary Kay Foundation is committed to ending the epidemic of domestic violence by providing grants to women's shelters throughout the United States.

Diabetes Education, Prevention, and Treatment Funded

The Sun Life Team Up Against Diabetes grant program is dedicated to addressing the prevention of diabetes and its related complications.

Matching Grants Strengthen Community Projects in the U.S. and Canada

Partners for Places is a matching grant program that creates opportunities for cities and counties in the United States and Canada to improve communities by building partnerships between local government leaders, community-led groups, and place-based local or regional foundations.

Efforts to Increase Youth Volunteer Rates Supported

Youth Service America believes that youth, communities, and our democracy thrive when we all work together for the common good.

Regional Opportunities

Funds for Western Organizations Improving Economic Prosperity

The Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that enhance the quality of life in the communities the Bank serves in California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Grants Address Rural Arts and Environmental Issues in Selected States

The Laura Jane Musser Fund will begin accepting applications for the Rural Arts and Environmental Initiative grant programs in February of 2021.

Support for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management in Georgia

The mission of the Healthcare Georgia Foundation is to advance the health of all Georgians and to expand access to affordable, quality healthcare for underserved individuals and communities.

Arts and Conservation Programs in Maine Funded

The mission of the Onion Foundation is to encourage conservation and stewardship of the natural environment and to promote music and the arts in the state of Maine.

Federal Opportunities

Preservation Funds Available

The Preservation Technology and Training Grants program provides support to create better tools, materials, and approaches to conserving buildings, landscapes, sites, and collections.

Program Supports Workforce Training for the Incarcerated

The Pathway Home program seeks to provide incarcerated individuals in state correctional facilities or local or county jails with workforce services prior to release.



Alliance for Nevada Nonprofits

Alliance for Nevada Nonprofits (ANN) is the leader and voice for Nevada's nonprofit sector, and the resource for sustainability, advocacy, and professionalism. At a time when the nonprofit sector is facing tremendous challenges, affiliation with the National Council of Nonprofits plays

a crucial role in ANN's ability to help nonprofits in Nevada. As a Nonprofit Ally of the National Council, ANN is informed about critical issues that impact all nonprofits, receives guidance on ways to amplify the voices of nonprofits in Nevada with federal and state policy makers, and benefits from the National Council's network that connects more than 25,000 nonprofits throughout the country.



[Align, Don't Hustle: Syncing Your Fundraising Career With Your Personal Values](#)

Are you a professional fundraiser looking to work for an organization that reflects your core values? If so, you may want to attend Bloomerang's free upcoming webinar "Align, Don't Hustle: Syncing Your Fundraising Career With Your Personal Values." Held on Thursday, February 25, 2021, this webinar will show you how to identify the ideal organization with values that align with your fundamental beliefs and lifestyle. It will explain how to identify your "why" and how it motivates you in your career and personal life, how to employ strategies to create the culture that is right for you, how to create a plan that aligns your values with your career, and more.



[Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine: DxQI Seed Grant Program](#)

The Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine leads change to improve diagnosis and eliminate harm from diagnostic error. The purpose of the DxQI Seed Grant Program is to engage healthcare organizations in efforts to identify, develop, and test interventions aimed at improving diagnostic quality and reducing harm from diagnostic error. [Learn more](#) about the funding guidelines and application process.

[Prix Ars Electronica](#)

The Prix Ars Electronica, an initiative of Ars Electronica, is a global media arts competition. For the 2021 competition, prize categories consist of Computer Animation; Digital Musics and Sound Art; Artificial Intelligence and Life Art, focused on arts related to AI and life sciences; and u19 - Create Your World, which is aimed at children and youth. Winners in each category are awarded a cash prize of up to 10,000 euros, a statuette, and an opportunity to showcase their talents at the famed Ars Electronica Festival in Linz, Austria. Individuals, groups, institutions, and companies are eligible to apply in all categories except for the u19 category, which is open to anyone who is 19 years of age or younger who lives in Austria. The submission deadline is March 3, 2021. Visit the Ars Electronica website to review the 2021 open call.

[Grants Empower Women and Girls Through Education](#)

[Circle of Sisterhood Foundation](#)

The mission of the Circle of Sisterhood Foundation is to remove barriers to education for girls and women facing poverty and oppression. The Foundation supports organizations that are implementing programs or services congruent with its mission. Areas of interest include the following: 1) ensuring opportunities for women and girls to achieve education, including enrichment and study groups, innovative approaches to education, providing tuition and

materials, awareness of the importance of education, and parental involvement; and 2) improving the livelihood of girls and women, including business and vocational training. Funding is provided worldwide, with priority given to developing countries where girls are kept from school. U.S.-based nonprofit organizations operating domestically or internationally are eligible to apply. The application deadline is March 15, 2021. Visit the Foundation's website to download a PDF preview of the application and apply online.

[Nevada Department of Transportation hiring for paid summer internships](#)

[Announcements](#) - Sunday, February 14, 2021 - 2:26pm



NDOT news release

CARSON CITY, Nev. — The Nevada Department of Transportation is looking ahead to the summer road construction season by accepting applications for paid summer internships through Feb. 26.

[Global Hope Challenge kicks off in conjunction with iFred's Hopeful Cities campaign launch in Reno \(sponsored\)](#)

SPONSORED: Reno is the first city to join the Hopeful Cities movement and is operationalizing hope by bringing free tools and resources to teach the “how-to” of hope through the Global Challenge. [Read on »](#)

[Barbados To Remove Queen Elizabeth as Head of State](#) Feb 11, 2021 09:57 am

By Victor Omondi Barbados recently announced a plan to kick out Queen Elizabeth as the country's head of state and attain a republic status. **“The time has come to fully leave our colonial past behind,” said the island's government.** The Caribbean island wants to fast-track the process so that it gains its independence from Britain [...]

<https://yourblackeducation.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9f39f169582309c160ad664f6&id=9c8ea4f97b&e=b9f28865c9>



thebeststuffonline.net

[Native American Brothers Pan Flute Rendition of 'Unchained Melody' Goes Viral](#)

[Have you wondered why this old-time oldie hit "Unchained Melody" by the Righteous Brothers never seems to get rest from covers? When everyone gets retired from falling in love, that is maybe the time that](#)

[Scientists Are Pretty Sure They Found a Portal to the Fifth Dimension](#)

[It's probably in this weird particle.](#)

[Popular Mechanics](#)

Tesla pledged to donate \$37.5m to K-12 in Nevada. But there are caveats.

By [April Corbin Girnus](#), Nevada Current

Lawmakers last month seemed surprised to learn the Nevada Department of Education has no direct role in deciding which organizations receive the \$37.5 million in donations pledged by Tesla as a part of its sweetheart tax abatement deal with the state.

The Nevada Legislature in a 2014 special session [unanimously approved](#) a \$1.3 billion tax break — the largest tax break in the history of the state — in order to woo the electric car company into locating its battery factory in Northern Nevada. The \$37.5 million pledge to support K-12 education wasn't codified into any bill (because a state can't legally make a corporation donate money, said officials at the time). However, it was a publicly understood part of the deal and was highlighted by Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval. The pledge was seen as a way to appease concerns that the state's already struggling K-12 education system could not keep pace with growth spurred by the battery factory.

After the close of the special session, Tesla Vice President of Business and Corporate Development Diarmuid O'Connell sent a letter to Sandoval committing the company to donating \$7.5 million annually for five years — starting in July 2018.

“The funds will be donated to the (Nevada Department of Education's Education Gift Fund) to augment STEM education on a state-wide basis as well as to fund desired educational programs within the school districts located in the geographic region surrounding the Tesla facility,” read [the letter](#).

According to news articles published in 2014, Sandoval's chief of staff, Mike Willden, said the state superintendent of public instruction would [decide the money's distribution](#). Dale Erquiaga held that position in 2014 but left in 2015, years before the first Tesla donations were received.

Last month, Heidi Haartz, the state's deputy superintendent for business and support services, told lawmakers on the Interim Finance Committee that Tesla "identifies the entities and the amounts those entities will receive." She described the Nevada Department of Education and its Education Gift Fund as merely an intermediary.

That raised eyebrows among some lawmakers who questioned the process used to determine what organizations received money.

"I don't remember in that bill anything about Tesla getting to make those decisions," said Democratic state Sen. Marilyn Dondero Loop, who served in the Assembly during the Tesla special session. "I thought they were donations."

Tesla did not acknowledge or respond to the Current's questions about their selection process.

A 2018 press release distributed by the Nevada Department of Education [stated Tesla selected the recipients](#) of the initial \$1.5 million "in collaboration with an advisory group comprised of Nevada education leaders, business leaders, non-profits and government officials."

During a December 2018 Interim Finance Committee meeting reviewed by the Current, then-State Superintendent Steve Canavero characterized the department as an active partner in the process, but the specific question of who determines the grant recipients was not asked. (Canavero resigned in early 2019 to accept an education job in the private sector. He was succeeded by Jhone Ebert.)

In a 2019 document detailing the company's investments in K-12 in Nevada, Tesla listed 11 people as being on an advisory committee started by the company.

State Board of Education member Mark Newburn, a longtime champion of computer science education who also sits on Nevada's STEM Advisory Council, is one of the people listed as being on the advisory committee. Newburn described the advisory committee to the Current as being "informal." He recalled speaking with Tesla representatives in 2018 about specific programs and needs within the state.

Newburn says he always understood the \$37.5 million pledge to be at the discretion of Tesla, but adds, "They did talk to people."

Bob Fulkerson, who followed the Tesla special session as head of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, said he was surprised to learn Tesla was in charge of deciding what organizations received the donated money. His recollection mirrored the lawmakers who thought of the pledge as money to the state to hand out.

But that doesn't mean he's shocked by the revelation.

“To me it’s symptomatic of how the state exists — as an appendage to corporate affairs,” said Fulkerson. “That’s the reason for Nevada to exist. For corporations to make as much money as they can and pay as little as they can in taxes.”

PLAN was one of the few to publicly express concerns about the Tesla tax abatements in 2014. “It was heresy,” he adds.

Some state lawmakers did go on the record about concerns about education. Then state Sen. Debbie Smith, a Democrat, is noted in a *Las Vegas Sun* article as pointing out that \$37.5 million “[doesn’t build classrooms](#).”

Nevada spends billions — not millions — annually on its K-12 education system.

In 2018, the *Reno Gazette-Journal* found that state tax incentives, including the Tesla giga-deal, had [deprived public schools](#) of more than \$108 million since July 2016.

So who got what?

By January 2020, Tesla had distributed almost \$17 million to 29 different recipients, according to a spreadsheet provided to the Current by the Nevada Department of Education. An NDOE spokesperson provided the spreadsheet, along with a 2020 “impact report” created by Tesla, but directed all questions to a Tesla representative who did not respond to the Current.

Tesla representatives have stated publicly and in reports that the company’s donations would be focused on supporting innovative programming, developing teachers into leaders of programs at their schools, creating the infrastructure to support robotics and sustainability learning, and creating workforce development pathways.

The largest recipient of Tesla’s money was the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation, or REC Foundation. It received almost \$4.9 million in the first two years of donations and is set to receive at least \$1 million more this year.

Four other organizations received more than a million dollars each in the first two years of Tesla donations: Envirolution (\$1.4 million), Desert Research Institute (\$1.4 million), FIRST Robotics (\$1.3 million) and Jobs for Nevada’s Graduates (\$1.06 million).

REC Foundation and FIRST Nevada are working toward establishing robotics programs at every school in Nevada. REC Foundation says it has established programs in approximately 400 schools statewide; FIRST Nevada says it has more than 250 teams statewide. There may be overlap between the organizations, as some schools offer programs from both organizations.

Nevada had 722 schools statewide, according to 2018-19 data from the National Center for Education Statistics.

REC Foundation is also establishing “robotics labs” in approximately 20 schools across the state. According to a representative from REC Foundation, those robotics labs are designed to be used not just by the schools they are located in but also by surrounding schools, whose students might

otherwise have to travel further (typically to a university) to access the robotics equipment needed for higher-level programs.

In addition to the \$17 million accounted for it in the table below, a Nevada Department of Education representative told lawmakers last month that the first \$2 million of Tesla's third \$7.5 million installment would be distributed as follows:

- \$1 million – REC Foundation
- \$313,000 – SAE Foundation
- \$313,000 – Nevada Museum of Art
- \$185,000 – Jobs 4 Nevada Graduates
- \$115,000 – Envirolution
- \$84,000 – Communities in Schools
- \$25,000 – CCSD
- \$25,000 – WCSD
- \$15,000 – Roadtrip Nation

Clark County School District received \$290,000 and Washoe County School District received \$293,800 in 2018 and 2019. Initial donations of \$50,000 to each school district were described by Tesla in 2018 as “part of the establishment of multi-year special assignment roles in career technical education offices to train and implement programming from within, while also supporting neighboring districts.”

CCSD is by far Nevada's [largest school district](#), enrolling 65.6 percent of K-12 students statewide. WCSD enrolls 13.3 percent. The State Public Charter School Authority makes up 10.9 percent of students — most of whom are located in Clark County. The state's remaining 15 county school districts combined enroll 10.2 percent.

Dondero Loop noted the apparent disparity in the IFC meeting last month.

“We've got people in there not necessarily benefiting,” she said while emphasizing the need to understand the selection process. “The largest school district is getting a small amount of funding, in my opinion.”

Carson City School District and Green Schools National Network received \$266,250 as of January 2020. That amount appears to be a part of a commitment to donate \$712,250 over three years, which [Carson City School District](#) announced in early 2020.

The [Nevada Museum of Art](#) is listed as having received \$680,040 from Tesla, but the Reno institution has reported it will receive \$1.25 million over the next four years.

Other recipients of Tesla money include Code.org, the Discovery Museum of Northern Nevada and UNLV Foundation. A full list is below.

Where Tesla's donations went

In 2014, Gov. Brian Sandoval and the Nevada State Legislature approved a \$1.3 billion tax break for Tesla. As part of that approval, the electric car company pledged to donate \$37.5 million — \$7.5 million annually, for five years, beginning in 2018. Here are the organizations that received funding from the initial two years of donations.

Organization	Amount received, as of January 2020
Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation	\$4,868,200
Envirovolution	\$1,416,290
DRI	\$1,415,081
FIRST Robotics	\$1,280,781
Jobs for Nevada's Graduates (J4NG)	\$1,059,852
Sierra Nevada Journeys	\$810,073
Code.org	\$761,540
Nevada Museum of Art	\$680,040
SAE Foundation	\$625,000
Truckee Meadows Community College Foundation	\$594,176
Discovery Museum of Northern Nevada	\$397,887
Solar Rollers – Energetics Education	\$305,193
Washoe County School District	\$293,800
Clark County School District	\$290,000
Roadtrip Nation	\$276,000
Carson City School District (+Green Schools National Network)	\$266,250
UNLV Foundation	\$225,000
UNR Research and Innovation Foundation	\$225,000
Communities in Schools	\$209,360
Girls Who Code	\$200,000
Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful	\$175,000
Western Nevada College Foundation	\$150,177
Get Outdoors Nevada	\$68,500
Green Our Planet	\$41,000
Urban Roots	\$40,000

Nevada Department of Education – Office of Career Readiness	\$36,000
Governor’s Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology (OSIT)	\$25,000
Washoe County Education Foundation	\$10,000
Great Reno Balloon Race	\$5,000
(Pending Final Investment)	\$249,800
Total	\$17,000,000



The Longest Walk, 1978

Solidarity between African Americans and Native Americans grew with the Black Power movement of the 1970s, whose goals were closer to the nationalism espoused by American Indian Movement activists. Pictured here (left to right) are Muhammad Ali, Buffy St. Marie, Floyd Red Crow Westerman, Harold Smith, Stevie Wonder, Marlon Brando, Max Gail, Dick Gregory, Richie Havens, and David Amram at a concert at the end of the Longest Walk, a 3,600-mile protest march from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., in the name of Native rights.

[It turns out installing solar panels on your house actually benefits your whole community.](#)
(Eureka)

[Facing A Reckoning, Wyoming Wrestles With A Transition From Fossil Fuels](#) (NPR)

[Salesforce declares the 9-to-5 workday dead, will let some employees work remotely from now on](#) (Verge). Watch out for their next announcement, which heralds the dawn of the 9-9 workday.

Indian Country Today’s [Speakers Bureau](#) features award-winning journalists from all corners of Native America who offer expertise in Indigenous issues like public health, missing and murdered women, and representation in media.

<https://support.indiancountrytoday.com/speakers-bureau/>