

# Innovative Workforce Development Programs for the Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Sectors

June 22, 2023

# **The National Governors Association**

#### Founding

The May 1908 meeting of President Theodore Roosevelt and governors led to the creation of the National Governors Association.



#### What We Do

The National Governors Association (NGA) is the nonpartisan organization of the nation's governors. Through NGA, governors identify priority issues and deal with matters of public policy and governance at the state, national and global levels.

The NGA Center for Best Practices is the only research and consulting firm that directly serves governors and helps governors and executive branch leaders develop and implement innovative solutions to public policy challenges. Our Government Relations team ensures that states are a strong voice in Washington, D.C. We also provide management consultative services to both new and incumbent governors, their senior executive staff and trusted advisors.



## The NGA Center for Best Practices

Services:

- Customized Technical Assistance
- Facilitation & Strategic Planning Support
- Multi-State Consortia and Peer Learning
- Research & Published Reports

#### Program Areas:

- Children & Families
- Cybersecurity
- Energy
- Environment
- Healthcare Delivery
- Homeland Security
- Infrastructure
- K-12 Education
- Land Management, Agriculture, Wildlife, & Rural
- Postsecondary Education
- Public Health
- Public Safety & Legal Counsels
- Substance Use & Mental Health
- Workforce Development & Economic Policy





# **NGA Networks**

Governors' Economic Policy Advisors State Workforce & Economic Development Leaders Outdoor Recreation Learning Network (ORLN) members



# NGA and Oregon State University's Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (TTOR) Research Project



#### **Project Background**

EDA invested \$750 million in American Rescue Plan funding to help the Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (TTOR) Sectors Recover from Covid-19 Pandemic

#### 185 projects throughout the U.S.

## NGA partnering with OSU on 2-year project to assess effectiveness of TTOR grants and promote best practices

#### **Goals:** Highlight projects that are **INNOVATIVE** and can be **REPLICATED**

- expand the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation economy
- workforce programs for higher-skilled, higher wage jobs
- create equitable opportunities for disadvantaged populations
- diversify TTOR economies to be resilient to economic shocks and climate change

#### **Details:**

- two-year study
- developing metrics to gauge effectiveness of investments in TTOR
- gather data and case studies
- hold webinars on innovative projects (June, Sept., Dec. 2023)
- publish final best practices report with 4-6 case studies in 2024

# Today's Speakers

Chelsea Ruby, Cabinet Secretary, West Virginia Tourism Office, and Ennis Smith, Director of Destination Development

Lynn Minges, President & CEO, North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association Foundation

Mike Thibideau, President & CEO, Economic Development Corporation, Hamilton County, Indiana

Q&A

## WEST VIRGINIA.

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

# Tourism Workforce Development

Chelsea A. Ruby Cabinet Secretary for WV Department of Tourism

# **INTRODUCING TOURISM WORKS**

This program is funded by a **\$5.1 million grant awarded** to the WV Department of Tourism by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

We have three primary areas of focus:



SCAN HERE OR GO TO WVtourism.com/tourismworks/ to learn more



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## **TALENT PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT - SHAPE OUR FUTURE**



Revamped and relevant k-12 tourism curriculum

Grants to schools for tourism-based projects

New degree and certificate program at the college level

New pathway programs to make the connection

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## **EXISTING WORKFORCE TRAINING – TRAIN YOUR TEAM**

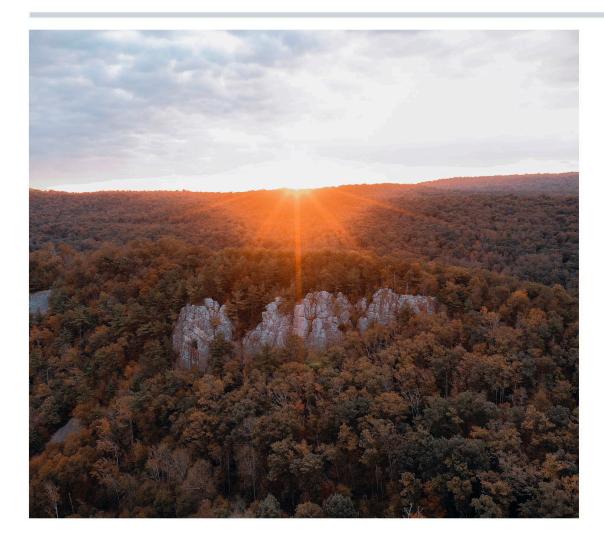
#### Governor's Guaranteed Workforce

Learn & Earn



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# **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - SHAPE OUR FUTURE**



Everyone a visitor encounters in West Virginia is an ambassador for tourism.

#### **New Online Education Modules**

- Relevant for today's industry
- User-friendly
- Free college credit

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#### **NCRLA's Hospitality Training Program**

National Governors Association Center for Best Practices

June 22, 2023



Lynn Minges NCRLA President & CEO



NC Restaurant & Lodging Association

### NCRLA Foundation Hospitality & Tourism Training Program



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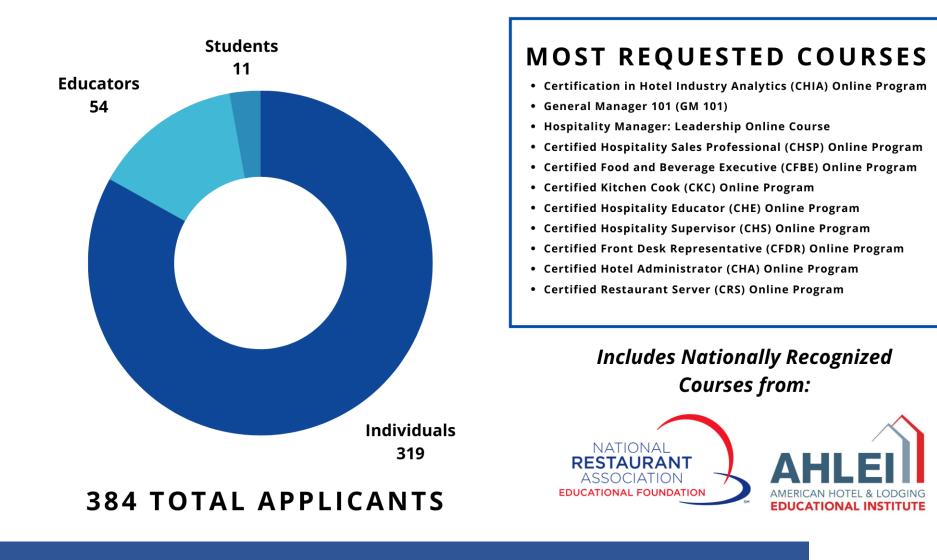
#### **Over 380** Applicants to Date

#### 250

Individuals Assigned Training Courses

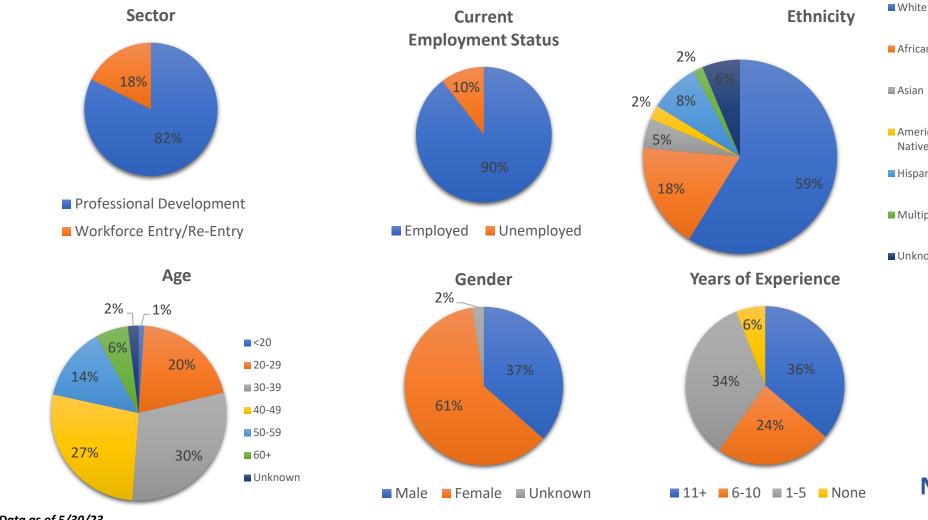


### **NCRLA Foundation Hospitality & Tourism Training Program**



NC Restaurant & Lodging Association

### **NCRLA Foundation Hospitality & Tourism Training Program**



African American Asian American Indian or Alaskan Native Hispanic/Latino Multiple Unknown

> Scan above or Visit NCRLA.training to learn more

Data as of 5/30/23





## Business, Entertainment, Sport, Tourism (BEST)

#### **Workforce Programs**

Mike Thibideau President & CEO, Invest Hamilton County VP of Workforce Strategy, Hamilton County Tourism







## **Key Challenges**

Pay for positions falls far short of median pay for HSE, entry-level talent in community

Hours/week and night/weekend shifts don't align with competing opportunities



Certain positions do not empower economic/career mobility

Lack of sustainable recruitment pathways



## **Opportunity: Non-traditional Job Seekers**



Work with Disability Service Providers to train, recruit and retain individuals with disabilities



Allow the soft-skill and consumer facing focused positions of hospitality to help launch a second-chance



Questions: Mike Thibideau, President & CEO <u>mthibideau@investhamiltoncounty.com</u> 248-613-4320



# **Questions?**



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