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**Heller Announces University Nevada, Reno Awarded Competitive $1 Million Grant to Support Manufacturing Partnership Program**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today announced that the University of Nevada, Reno has been awarded $1 million through the U.S Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program. The funding awarded to UNR is part of the Commerce Department’s larger announcement that it is investing an additional $7 million to enhance the MEP Program and support new projects to solve emerging manufacturing challenges.

Specifically, the award will go toward supporting the [MEP Center at the University of Nevada, Reno](https://ws680.nist.gov/mepmeis/Document.ashx?SC=NV) and its work on a project to enable partnerships with state manufacturing innovation centers, as well as extend university research and related industry innovation.

“Nevada’s MEP Center has helped ensure that our state’s manufacturing sector continues to thrive and create competitive jobs, and it’s great to see that the work at the University of Nevada, Reno has been recognized by the Commerce Department,” **said Heller.** “Today’s announcement included awards for only eight MEP Centers, and the MEP Center in Nevada was one of them. This competitive $1 million grant will support partnerships with state manufacturing innovation centers as well as expanded research. I’ll continue to work to see that Nevada’s status as a national leader in innovation is recognized in Washington, D.C., and fight to see that our state has adequate resources to encourage entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation that has led to Nevada becoming one of the fastest growing states in the nation.”

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