



(See the story on back page)



Strengthening Community Through Economic Leadership

Economic Resource Council Impact Report for January 2026



WELCOME GIL MATHEW

Thirty years ago, on January 6, 2026, the Economic Resource Council was founded with a mission to support a strong and vibrant local economy. Today, that mission is more important than ever. With fresh momentum in the new year, we are shaping our signature events—the Tour of Nevada County and the Annual Economic Summit—while continuing to build on the relationships and achievements of the past three decades. We are grateful for our business community and look forward to working together to create an even brighter future for Nevada County.

A MONTH FILLED WITH ACTION

The ERC Board of Directors kicked off the year with a focused strategic planning session in January, led by facilitator Lori Burkart-Frank. Together, the Board examined two important questions: how to strengthen awareness of the ERC and how to translate that awareness into increased membership. The session generated thoughtful ideas and creative approaches, all of which have been captured to help guide the organization's priorities and initiatives in the months ahead.

California Jobs First – We Prosper Together

In its ambassadorial role, the ERC remains actively engaged with the California Jobs First initiative, offering guidance and support while monitoring the ongoing work of the program's three grantees.

Biz Fundamentals

Congratulations to the six students who graduated from the January Biz Fundamentals class! The next session is scheduled for March 9–12, and enrollment is now open.

With classes capped at just eight students, participants receive personalized guidance and direct access to instructors and resources.

Business Support

	<u>January</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
Assisted Companies	7	7
Hours of One-On-One	31.5 Hrs	31.5 Hrs

New Businesses Under Contract

3

Community Outreach

- Social Media Posts
- KNCO "All Things Economic"
- NC Media "All Things Economic"
- Geoship
- Grass Valley Business Alliance
- Recreation Collaborative
- Valley Vision

<u>Staff Time</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Catalyst Ambassador	33 Hrs	33 Hrs
Biz Fundamentals	18 Hrs	18 Hrs
Bring 'M Home Campaign	6 Hrs	6 Hrs



FEATURED STORY

GapStrap



GapStrap, a specialized fastening system for cement fiberboard siding, was created by 2nd generation contractor Eric Arteaga and his two sons. Designed to solve issues with siding installation and maintenance, this patented, adjustable tension system was developed by contractors for contractors to ensure reliable, long-lasting performance.

Eric Arteaga, a lifelong painter, knew firsthand the limitations of caulking in cement fiber siding joints. Year after year, shrinking materials, harsh weather, and shifting boards led to repeated repairs and ongoing frustration. Together with his son, Eric set out to create a better approach. The result was GapStrap—a simple but groundbreaking product that replaces temporary fixes with a permanent, reusable solution.

Now, with guidance from the ERC, the company is taking steps to relocate manufacturing from Indiana to Nevada County, bringing jobs and innovation back to the local community.



COMMUNITY FORUM - Mark Your Calendar

AI – The Future and You

What does the future of AI hold for our community and our world? Join a dynamic panel discussion featuring Eric Little, Steve Monaghan, and Sasha Sidorkin as they explore the highs, lows, and real-world implications of artificial intelligence. The conversation takes place at Sierra College, 250 Sierra College Drive, in the Multi-Purpose Hall. Doors open at 3:30 p.m., with the panel beginning at 4:00 p.m. This is a **free event with free parking—everyone is welcome!**

Looking Forward

Business Support:

Biz Fundamentals Series: March 9, 10, 11, 12- 2026

Events:

Tour of Nevada County: Thursday, April 30, 2026

Nevada County Economic Summit: Thursday, Sept 24, 2026

Thank you to our members...We could not do this without your generous *support.*

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.	Grass Valley Provisions	Nevada County Arts Council	Rod Fivelstad
Automatrix, Inc.	Greater Grass Valley CoC	Nevada County Association of Realtors	SCO Planning & Engineering
B & C Ace Home & Garden Center	Hansen Brothers, Inc.	Nevada County Contractors' Association	Sierra College - Nevada County Campus
City of Grass Valley	InConcert Sierra	Nevada County Properties	Smallbiz Maven
City of Nevada City	InterWest Insurance Services, LLC	Nevada County Superintendent of Schools	SNMH Foundation
County of Nevada	Jerry Cirino	Nevada County Transportation Commission	State Farm Insurance/Mike Bratton
Cranmer Engineering, Inc.	Ladris Technologies Inc.	North State Grocery, Inc.	Machen MacDonald - Vistage/ProBrilliance
Dignity Health Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital	Mark & Patricia Hughes	Owens Estate and Wealth Strategies Group	Weiss Landscaping
Ed and Carol Scofield	MEC Builds, Inc.	River Valley Community Bank	WM
English Mountain Ranch	Nevada City Engineering	Robertson, Woodford & Summers, LLP.	Z.A.P. Manufacturing, Inc.

Thank you to our Members & Other Partners: Sierra Business Council - County of Nevada - Valley Vision - Sierra College

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