



The Discovery Welcomes Dean Neese to Board of Directors

RENO, Nev. (January 23, 2026) – The Discovery, Northern Nevada’s premier science center, announced today the appointment of Dean Neese, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Placer.ai, to its Board of Directors.

Neese brings extensive leadership experience in operations, finance, strategy and organizational development to his role at The Discovery. As a senior executive at Placer.ai, he works closely with executive leadership and the board to guide long-term strategy, ensure financial health and scale the organization responsibly.

“We are pleased to welcome Dean to The Discovery’s Board of Directors,” said Heather Norton, President/CEO of The Discovery. “His strategic insight, financial expertise and passion for innovation will be tremendous assets as we continue to expand our educational impact across Northern Nevada.”

Throughout his career, science, technology and education have been central themes for Neese. He was drawn to The Discovery for its ability to spark curiosity, creativity and a love of learning through hands-on exploration, and for its role in inspiring the next generation of thinkers, builders and problem-solvers.

“I was drawn to The Discovery because of its unique ability to inspire young minds through curiosity and exploration,” said Neese. “I believe hands-on learning is one of the most powerful ways to prepare children for the future, and I’m excited to support an institution that plays such an important role in our community.”

Neese plans to help The Discovery continue expanding its role as a cornerstone for STEM learning and family engagement in Northern Nevada, while deepening community partnerships, broadening access for underserved families, and innovating with exhibits that connect science and technology to real-world challenges.

In addition to his professional work, Neese enjoys traveling, exploring the outdoors, visiting museums, hiking, spending time with family and friends, and mentoring the next generation.

For more information about The Discovery, visit nvdm.org.

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About The Discovery

The Discovery creates interest and engagement in science for all. Through unique, hands-on programs, exhibitions and events, The Discovery creates learning experiences that range from simple curiosity to deep understanding, empowering a community of critical thinkers. The

Discovery is a locally founded nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. To learn more about The Discovery and how you can help support the museum's mission, visit www.nvdm.org.