



Carson City School District was awarded for Special Recognition of Excellence for Sustainability Practices.

COURTESY

## NNDA RECOGNIZES Carson City School District

### Nevada Appeal staff report

In acknowledgment of the Carson City School District's sustainability achievements, the Northern Nevada Development Authority provided a special recognition of excellence for sustainability practices during its monthly "The Business Edge" meeting at the Carson Nugget Casino on Oct. 24.

A plaque for the award was accepted by Andrew Feuling, director of fiscal services, for the Carson City School District. NNDA also presented Mark Korinek, director of operations for the district, with a plaque acknowledging his specific efforts spearheading most of the work and as being recognized around Northern

Nevada as a leader in green initiatives.

"We tend to only recognize how companies are incorporating sustainability practices into their business model," NNDA President and CEO Rob Hooper said. "Other types of entities are doing the same, and we have been impressed with the sustainability accomplishments the Carson City School District has achieved."

Earlier this year, nine of the 10 Carson City schools earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star certification. The certification signifies these buildings perform in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency and meets strict energy efficiency

performance levels set by the EPA. When construction at the 10th school is completed, the district expects it will also receive the Energy Star certification.

Part of the Carson City School District's strategic plan includes 1) providing opportunities through community partnerships and district resources for students to learn about environmentally friendly actions and sustainable practices to share with their families, community, environment and future employers; 2) directing the district to engage in and encourage sustainable practices in its operations and communicating these efforts to students, their families and all stakeholders; and 3) empowering

students to achieve a lifestyle that's physically and emotionally healthy and socially responsible.

The district is considered the most energy efficient in Nevada, on a utility cost per student basis. Before their last round of energy savings projects, its Energy Use Intensity, or EUI was 44.7. Other K-12 school districts in Nevada average around 60 EUI.

By utilizing district resources to model sustainability goals and provide cost savings, the district has become a stage for students to benefit from sustainability, to learn about it first hand, and then take their knowledge and skills to benefit the employers (or become the employers) of Northern Nevada.

## Tax burden still high for top earners

Well, for us tax preparers, another "tax season" is finally in the bag. Oct. 15 was the big day.

We've had fun showing all our clients what to look forward to with the new Trump tax law for 2018. Most business owners are already planning on how to hire new employees, purchase new business equipment, expand their facilities, give out



John Bullis

bonuses, etc. (most have already been doing so), much funded by the new Trump law tax savings. Folks, don't let the

mainstream media try to hide this. What's happening to our economy is hugely driven by this tax cut. Business owners aren't buying consumer items, they're investing in making their businesses bigger and more profitable. Remember, more profits mean paying more taxes, even if the tax rates are lower.

So, many people are confused about whether our current tax system taxes the "rich" enough or not.

Here are some statistics the Internal Revenue Service just released for the 2016 tax year:

The top 1 percent of individual taxpayers paid 37.32 percent of all federal income taxes. So, how does the IRS define this group? Their adjusted gross income is at least \$480,804 or higher. This group represents 19.72 percent of the total adjusted gross income of all taxpayers combined.

The highest 5 percent of individual taxpayers paid 58.23 percent of all federal income taxes. This group accounted for 35.2 percent of all adjusted gross income of all taxpayers combined. That means they had to have at least \$197,651 of adjusted gross income or higher to be counted in this prestigious group.

The top 10 percent, those with adjusted gross income of at least \$139,713, bore 69.47 percent of all federal income taxes collected in 2016. Are you in that group?

The bottom 50 percent of all taxpayers (who filed tax returns) paid only 3.04 percent of the total federal income tax collected. Their share is so low because many of them get substantial tax relief through refundable tax credits.

So, to answer the question, "Do the rich pay their fair share of taxes?" I think the answer is a resounding "yes." In fact, they pay way more than their fair share. Ten percent of the taxpayers in America (the "rich") pay almost 70 percent of all federal income tax. The bottom half of the country pays almost no federal income tax.

Did you hear? Proverbs 22:2 says, "The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all."

*Kelly Bullis is a certified public accountant in Carson City. Contact him at 775-882-4459, on the Web at [www.bullisandco.com](http://www.bullisandco.com) and on Facebook.*