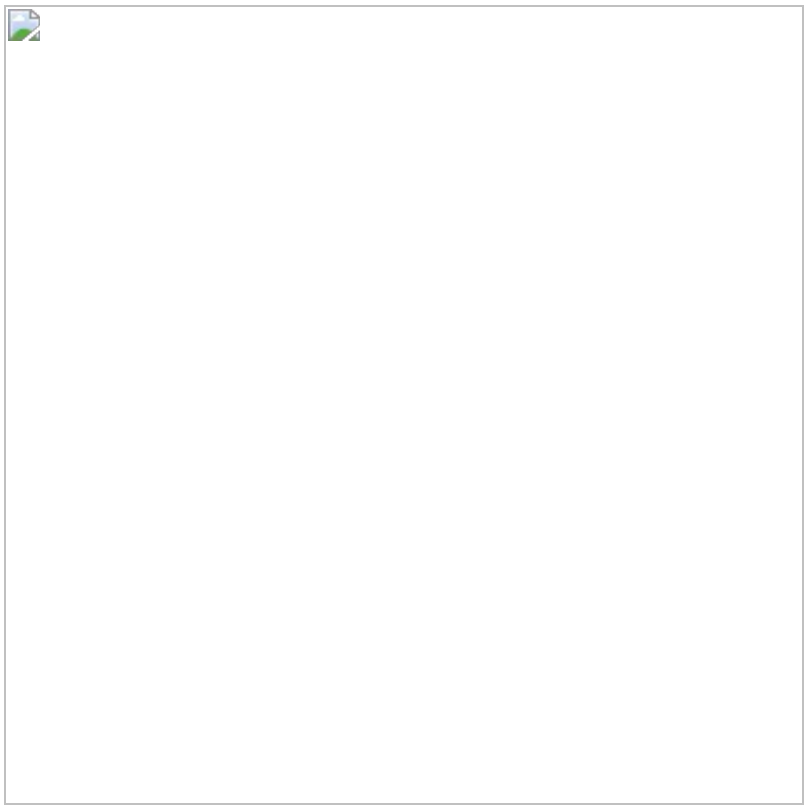
LithiumAmericas

NEWS RELEASE

Filling Backpacks, Fueling Futures: Community Helps Drive Student Success

2025-08-18



From left-to-right: Elicia Hawkins, HR Generalist; Maria Anderson, Community Relations Director;

Val Espen, Office Administrator; Mike Worley, Environmental Manager; and Mike Brock,

Environmental Coordinator pose with our Fill the Bus school supply donations.

From July 7 –August 8, the Lithium Americas Winnemucca office joined forces with community members for the 2nd annual "Fill the Bus" campaign, hosted by Communities in Schools (CIS) Northeastern Nevada. Together, we

collected essential school supplies and basic needs items to help local students start the year ready to learn. The community spirit didn't stop there!

Bechtel staff including Tivi Aho, Labor Relations Manager; Tina Brown McCann, Pipefitter; and Wallace Wade, Construction Workforce Effectiveness Lead assist with school supplies drop-off.

In addition to the school supplies donated by LAC and Bechtel employees, Tina Brown McCann, Bechtel Pipefitter presented $3,250 in cash in a hard hat, all collected from Bechtel craft workers at the site. Bechtel will match that cash donation.

Bechtel contributed supplies and presented CIS with $3,250 in cash donations generously contributed by union crafts working at Thacker Pass. Thanks to Bechtel's commitment to match these donations, the total contribution reached an impressive $6,500!

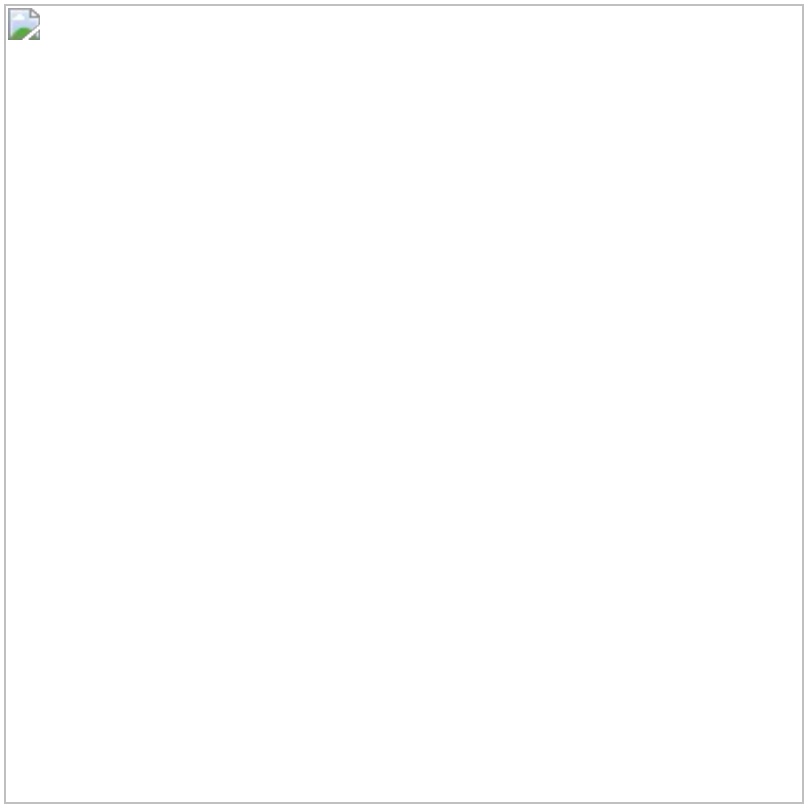
The specific union crafts workers responsible for raising over $3K included:

- Boilermakers
- Carpenters
- Cement Finishers
- Electricians
- Ironworkers
- Laborers
- Operators
- Pipefitters
- Teamsters

This collaborative effort directly supports students throughout the Humboldt County School District, ensuring every child has access to the tools and resources they need to thrive both in the classroom and beyond.

It's a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together for education.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Bechtel for their generous monetary donation collection and matching contribution, and to all the community members and Winnemucca and Reno-based LAC employees who donated supplies and made this campaign such a tremendous success. Your collective generosity is making a real difference in the lives of local students.



Maria Anderson, Community Relations Director (left) and Tessa Bowen, Communications Manager (right) loading donations collected from the Reno office.