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08 May 2020

### KNPR Paper

In the KNPR's State of Nevada May 8th episode, Andre Carrier who is President and Chief Operating Officer of Eureka Casinos, came on to discuss ways on how to bring up the economy in the face of the pandemic. Andre Carrier is looking for a way to bring up the hospitality industry by being a part of a panel that will offer 1 million dollars in prizes for the best ideas. When asked what more could be done by elected officials during this pandemic, Carrier responded with "I think they can all go to their social media feeds and share [leeprize.com](http://leeprize.com)," (Nevada Public Radio, 2020). This website calls all innovators and entrepreneurs to come up with solutions on how to make the food, beverage, hospitality, casino, sports, entertainment, and travel industries a safe place for all employees and guests during this pandemic (Lee School Prize, 2020). The Lee Business School at UNLV has created a 1 million Lee School Prize for any good ideas anyone may have.

The solution so far regarding a safe place for all guests and employees has been worldwide lockdown. All businesses have been subject to closure and any businesses open have implemented minor adjustments regarding safety such as sanitation and social distancing. Carrier believes there has to be more than closure and social distancing, however. He states, "It is time to

change the dialogue on how we move forward in the most effective way which is a discussion that you are shaping about ideas. Yes, the government has a role but there has to be more tools for the tool shed than closing and social distancing,” (Nevada Public Radio, 2020). He wants people to realize that nearly 30 million jobs depend on hospitality and tourism and the way things are being handled needs to change.

Carrier was asked how he believes the Lee School Prize will help this current pandemic. He states that this whole initiative is to go from idea to launch. He explains that there was a time when we went through airports with no metal detectors. Now in the present day, we can't imagine going through airports without them. There were times when dogs didn't know how to sniff for bombs, drugs, etc. and now we can't imagine not having them in large public places. He states that these simple and technical things are what we should be focusing on creating innovative ideas to help aid through this pandemic. He believes that there is no city in the world that is better positioned to take a leadership role in bringing essential parts of the economy back (Nevada Public Radio, 2020).

Carrier was asked what he believes will be the most difficult part about opening up the casino businesses. He states, “I believe it is about giving employees confidence so that they know they can come back to a safe workplace and then giving guests confidence so they can enjoy what they enjoy,” (Nevada Public Radio, 2020). The way he believes enlisting confidence in employees and guests will work is convincing them that these are safe places to be in. He states that casino floors are very large places and the availability to spread out and social distance is possible. We know how to properly sanitize however in a time like this we need to better and if we are better than we need to be the best.

In conclusion, Andre Carrier discussed his opinions on social distancing and worldwide lockdown. As the President and COO of a casino, he stated his own opinions as to how we can bring the economy back on track. He believes the people of Las Vegas have the power to create innovative ideas that can overall allow all employees and guests to feel safe. The economy will not get any better staying in lockdown especially when millions of jobs rely on hospitality and tourism. Not only do certain physical aspects have to change but Carrier believes that verbal aspects also must change. We must divert conversations differently in a way that will allow lockdown to be disbanded and businesses to start adjusting to normal. In Carrier's own words, the Government has a role but it's the people that are capable of making the most economic change during this pandemic.

## Resources

Lee School Prize, [www.leeprize.com/](http://www.leeprize.com/).

“Nevada Public Radio.” Nevada Public Radio, [knpr.org/](http://knpr.org/).