

Community Colleges

BULLETIN NO. 15-4



**COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INTERIM STUDY CONCERNING
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

BULLETIN NO. 15-4

JANUARY 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Summary of Recommendations..... iii

Report to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature by the Committee to Conduct an
Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges 1

 I. Introduction 1

 II. Committee Activities 2

 III. Discussion of Testimony and Recommendations for the State of Nevada2

 A. Community College Governance.....3

 B. Support for Academic Program Alignment5

 C. Workforce Development Grants.....6

 D. Need-based Financial Aid6

 IV. Conclusion7

 V. Appendices9

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INTERIM STUDY CONCERNING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Senate Bill 391
(Chapter 494, *Statutes of Nevada 2013*)

This summary presents the recommendations adopted by the Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges at its June 17, 2014, meeting. The Committee submits the following recommendations and bill draft requests (BDRs) to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

Need-based Financial Aid

1. Draft legislation to create a State-supported, need-based \$5 million grant program for the 2015–2017 Biennium, to provide financial aid to low-income students attending community colleges and the Nevada State College. **(BDR –593)**

Workforce Development Grants

2. Draft legislation to establish a \$6 million workforce development rapid response investment fund for the 2015–2017 Biennium, intended to assist community colleges in establishing new programs to address workforce needs outside of the biennial budget process. **(BDR –592)**
3. Draft legislation to establish a \$3.5 million science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce challenge grant program for the 2015–2017 Biennium, which would award funds to regional consortia to support the development and implementation of STEM programs in postsecondary education. **(BDR –594)**

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

In addition, the Committee directed its staff to:

4. Draft a letter to the Board of Regents (Board) of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) expressing support for NSHE’s shared services initiative, the Nevada College Collaborative, and the concept of community colleges operating as a system within a system. The letter will request NSHE to provide a report to the Legislature on all actions taken in this regard prior to the commencement of the 2015 Legislative Session.

5. Draft a letter to the Board expressing support for the creation of a vice chancellor position within NSHE to act as a coordinator of community colleges and an advocate for the colleges within the system, as well as the establishment of a standing committee of the Board specifically focused on community colleges. The duties of the new vice chancellor should include, but not be limited to: (1) the coordination of transfer and articulation agreements; (2) involvement with the industry sector councils and other initiatives to align workforce development needs with community college programs; and (3) the development of programs to increase alignment with K-12 education, including advanced placement courses, career and technical education, dual enrollment, and remedial education. The letter will also request NSHE to provide the Legislature with a report on all actions taken to address the vice chancellor position and the standing committee of the Board no later than December 31, 2014.
6. Draft a statement of support in the final Committee report for the expansion of: (1) advanced placement courses; (2) dual credit courses, including apprenticeships and certificate opportunities; and (3) community college high schools, in order to create additional opportunities for high school students to earn college credits on more campuses and align K-12, community college, and university courses to eliminate students taking duplicative coursework.
7. Draft a letter to NSHE requesting the community colleges to review the various advisory boards and committees that provide input to the colleges on such matters as coursework, curriculum, and program development to ensure the boards and committees are effective and not duplicative. The letter will request that NSHE report on the findings of the review to the Legislature on or before December 31, 2014. This report should also address whether or not the various boards and committees are involved with workforce development and, if so, provide an indication of whether the board or committee is aligned with one or more of the industry sector councils.
8. Draft a letter to the members of the 2015 Nevada Legislature forwarding all policy briefs, presentations, and reports submitted by the Lincy Institute for the members' consideration, no later than December 31, 2014.

**REPORT TO THE 78TH SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE BY THE
COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INTERIM STUDY CONCERNING
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges was created by the 2013 Nevada Legislature's enactment of Senate Bill 391. (see Appendix A for a copy of the measure.)

The bill provides a legislative declaration concerning the importance of community colleges to the State's economic development efforts; their presence in underserved rural communities; and their responsive nature to needs of employers and the surrounding communities within their service areas. It sets forth the scope of review of the Committee, including the option of shifting the administration of the community colleges (see Sections 1.5 and 3.2(e) of S.B. 391) to another governmental entity and, if it is deemed advisable to do so, the Committee is required to identify the best method of making such a transfer. Should such a transfer be deemed inadvisable, the measure calls for a review of other options for improving the governance structure and funding methods for Nevada's community colleges.

Members of the Committee during the 2013–2014 Interim included the following legislators:

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair
Assemblyman Paul Aizley, Vice Chair
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske
Senator Debbie Smith
Assemblyman Pat Hickey
Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick

Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) staff services were provided by:

Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division
H. Pepper Sturm, Interim Research Director, Research Division
Diane C. Thornton, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Division
Brody Leiser, Program Analyst, Fiscal Division
Brenda J. Erdoes, Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Karly O'Krent, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Christina Harper, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division
Sally Trotter, Principal Administrative Assistant, Research Division

II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Senate Bill 391 required the Committee to appoint two subcommittees to assist with the study: (1) the Subcommittee on Governance and Funding, which consisted of representatives of local government; the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada (Board); K-12 public education; legislators from the Committee; and individuals appointed by the Committee Chair; and (2) the Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment, which consisted of representatives of business and economic development sectors, including rural representatives; the Board; the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation; legislators from the Committee; and individuals appointed by the Committee Chair.

The full Committee met for the first time in January 2014 and held a final work session on June 17, 2014. Both meetings were held at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas and videoconferenced to the Legislative Building in Carson City and Great Basin College in Elko. In between meetings, the two subcommittees conducted hearings concerning the topics to which they were assigned. The Subcommittees' reports to the full Committee are attached to this report as Appendix B. The agendas, summaries of testimony, and exhibits for meetings of the full Committee and both Subcommittees are available online at: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/77th2013/committee/>.

Throughout the course of the study, the Committee and Subcommittees were provided with formal presentations in addition to expert and public testimony focused on the governance of community colleges and the alignment of community colleges with the needs of Nevada's workforce. Presentation topics included: (1) alignment with workforce and economic development goals; (2) alignment of K-12 career and technical education with college preparatory programs; and (3) models and best practices of governance throughout the states.

During its final meeting and work session, the Committee adopted three recommendations as bill draft requests (BDRs) for consideration during the 2015 Session of the Nevada Legislature. These recommendations for legislation include BDRs concerning need-based financial aid for students attending Nevada's community colleges and Nevada State College, and workforce development grants. The BDRs are compiled in Appendix E.

III. DISCUSSION OF TESTIMONY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATE OF NEVADA

Several topics were reviewed and discussed at the meetings of the Committee and Subcommittees. This section provides background information and discusses only those issues for which recommendations were made. These issues relate to:

- A. Community College Governance;
- B. Support for Academic Program Alignment;
- C. Workforce Development Grants; and
- D. Need-based Financial Aid.

A. Community College Governance

Governance Models—During its first meeting, the Committee heard a presentation from Aims C. McGuinness Jr., Ph.D., Senior Associate, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, on the [various models of governance and funding](#) for higher education throughout the states, including the historical origins of the models. Some of these models included separate centralized systems for community colleges, community colleges operating under regional authorities, and distinct divisions for community colleges within the same system as universities. Dr. McGuinness also testified at a meeting of the Subcommittee on Governance and Funding, where he provided additional details on [certain models](#).

Members of both Subcommittees discussed the benefits and costs of each of the models of governance and, after some deliberation, gravitated toward a model that involves coordination of community colleges within the existing higher education system by a central office or high-level official. Dr. McGuinness indicated other states had been successful in implementing such a model and recommended it for the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) as a cost-effective way to increase the level of coordination between the community colleges as well as ensure additional consideration was given to those institutions by the Board and system office.

In 2013, NSHE undertook a [study to examine the costs and benefits](#) related to the sharing of non-student related services by the three northern community colleges (Great Basin College, Truckee Meadows Community College, and Western Nevada College). The goal of the study was to identify potential cost savings realized through the elimination of redundant processes, systems, and organizations providing “back-office” services to the colleges. The consultant conducting the study [gave a presentation](#) during the Committee’s first meeting on the potential outcomes identified by the study and outlined how the system would move forward to pursue the initiative, now called the Nevada College Collaborative. In April 2014, the Board hired Frank R. Woodbeck, then Director of Nevada’s Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, to serve as the Executive Director of the Nevada College Collaborative, reporting to the Chancellor.

The Chancellor also relayed the commitment of the Board to have a standing agenda item for community colleges for each regular meeting. Evidence of these endeavors provided members of the Subcommittees assurance that community colleges would receive additional resources from NSHE and the Board in the future. Both the Subcommittees recommended the full Committee support the Nevada College Collaborative and continued governance of the community colleges by the Board, with the understanding the community colleges would operate as a system within a system, coordinated by a vice chancellor level office, which would act as an advocate for those colleges with the Board and within NSHE.

Following discussion of the Subcommittees' recommendations, the Committee agreed to:

Draft a letter to the Board of NSHE expressing support for NSHE's shared services initiative, the Nevada College Collaborative, and the concept of community colleges operating as a system within a system. The letter will request NSHE to provide a report to the Legislature on all actions taken in this regard prior to the commencement of the 2015 Legislative Session.

AND

Draft a letter to the Board expressing support for the creation of a vice chancellor position within NSHE to act as a coordinator of community colleges and an advocate for the colleges within the system, as well as the establishment of a standing committee of the Board specifically focused on community colleges. The duties of the new vice chancellor should include, but not be limited to: (1) the coordination of transfer and articulation agreements; (2) involvement with the industry sector councils and other initiatives to align workforce development needs with community college programs; and (3) the development of programs to increase alignment with K-12 education, including advanced placement courses, career and technical education, dual enrollment, and remedial education. The letter will also request NSHE to provide the Legislature with a report on all actions taken to address the vice chancellor position and the standing committee of the Board no later than December 31, 2014.

Advisory Boards and Committees—At its final meeting and work session, the Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment discussed the large number of advisory boards and committees providing guidance to various entities within the community colleges. Testimony revealed oftentimes the input provided was redundant and unnecessary in certain areas, while other areas, such as new, industry-specific program development, did not receive enough direction. The Subcommittee recommended the full Committee request the community colleges, through NSHE, to conduct a review on the effectiveness and necessity of their various advisory boards and committees.

Following deliberation on this issue, the Committee approved the following action:

Draft a letter to NSHE requesting the community colleges review the various advisory boards and committees that provide input to the colleges on such matters as curriculum, coursework, and program development to ensure the boards and committees are effective and not duplicative. The letter will request NSHE to report on the findings of the review to the Legislature on or before December 31, 2014. This report should address whether or not the various boards and committees are involved with workforce development and, if so, give an indication of whether the board or committee is aligned with one or more of the industry sector councils.

Lincy Institute Study— Each Subcommittee solicited recommendations from interested parties to be considered during its final meeting and work session. At its June 9, 2014, meeting, the Subcommittee on Governance and Funding received information concerning a study conducted by The Linxy Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on community college governance. Magdalena Martinez, Ph.D., Director of Education Programs at the Institute, presented two policy briefs titled, “[Understanding Nevada’s Higher Education Governance for Two-Year Colleges: Challenges and Solutions](#)” and “[The Case for a New College Governance Structure in Nevada: Integrating Higher Education with Economic Development](#).”

The policy briefs provide historical information concerning the governance of Nevada’s two-year colleges; an overview of governance models used in other states; and a proposal to modify the governance structure of Nevada’s community colleges to promote the State’s economic development goals. Because the proposal was not provided until the Subcommittee’s final meeting and work session, the Subcommittee on Governance and Funding did not take action on the recommendations outlined by Dr. Martinez. However, during the final meeting and work session of the full Committee, Senator Cegavske requested the research, policy briefs, and recommendations provided by The Linxy Institute be forwarded to the members of the 2015 Nevada Legislature for the members’ consideration.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to:

Draft a letter to the members of the 2015 Nevada Legislature forwarding all policy briefs, presentations, and reports submitted by the Linxy Institute for the members’ consideration, no later than December 31, 2014.

B. Support for Academic Program Alignment

Expansion of College Programs for High School Students—The Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment heard lengthy testimony concerning the benefits of allowing high school students to participate in programs awarding credit for postsecondary work, resulting in credits toward college degrees, apprenticeships, or certificate programs. Students enrolled in these programs were reported to not only graduate from high school at higher rates, but also demonstrate more success in college than students without exposure to postsecondary coursework. Chris Giunchigliani, Commissioner, Clark County, a member of the Subcommittee on Governance and Funding, requested the Committee support the expansion of advanced placement courses, dual credit courses, and community college high schools to allow more students to take advantage of these programs.

Following deliberation on this issue, the Committee approved the following action:

Draft a statement of support in the final Committee report for the expansion of: (1) advanced placement courses; (2) dual credit courses, including apprenticeships and certificate opportunities; and (3) community college high schools, in order to create

additional opportunities for high school students to earn college credits on more campuses and align K–12, community college, and university courses to eliminate students taking duplicative coursework.

C. Workforce Development Grants

Workforce Development Rapid Response Fund—Both Subcommittees received testimony concerning the need to align community college programs with the industry sectors targeted by the State’s economic development efforts. Frank R. Woodbeck, Executive Director, Nevada College Collaborative, NSHE, proposed the [creation of a grant program](#) to assist community colleges in responding to requests to develop or modify curricula to meet workforce development needs more quickly than allowed by the biennial budget process. Grant funds could be used to develop curriculum, purchase equipment, or provide up to two years’ salary and benefits for key instructors. Mr. Woodbeck testified that several other states were using similar grant funds to fast-track curriculum development.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Workforce Challenge Grant—Mr. Woodbeck also proposed the [establishment of a grant program](#) to award funds to regional consortia to align postsecondary education and skills training with workforce demands. The grant program would support the development and implementation of programs to meet the needs of local or regional STEM industries. Grant awards would require matching outside funds from private for-profit or nonprofit sources and programs must demonstrate the ability to become self-sustaining in order to be eligible for funding.

After discussion, the Committee approved the following action:

Draft legislation to establish a \$6 million workforce development rapid response investment fund for the 2015–2017 Biennium, intended to assist community colleges in establishing new programs to address workforce needs outside of the biennial budget process. (BDR –592)

AND

Draft legislation to establish a \$3.5 million STEM workforce challenge grant program for the 2015–2017 Biennium, which would award funds to regional consortia to support the development and implementation of STEM programs in postsecondary education. (BDR –594)

D. Need-Based Financial Aid

Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, NSHE, provided information to the Subcommittee on Governance and Funding concerning need-based financial aid for students of Nevada’s community colleges and the Nevada State College. Data provided by NSHE demonstrated Nevada ranked lowest among all states in two-year college participation rates for students from low-income families. The system attributed this to the

percentage of total family income required for a low-income student to attend one year at a Nevada community college (62.4 percent in 2011, after deducting support provided by other financial aid programs).

Ms. Abba proposed [creation of a state-supported, need-based financial aid grant program](#) for the 2015–2017 Biennium to assist low-income students attending a community college or the Nevada State College. As proposed, the grant program utilizes federal methodology and criteria to identify students with financial need who are academically prepared for college-level coursework. The cost of the program would be \$5 million over the biennium, and eligible students could be awarded up to \$2,000 per semester, if enrolled full-time. The Subcommittee deferred taking formal action concerning the proposal and recommended the full Committee membership consider NSHE’s request during its final meeting and work session.

Following deliberation on this issue, the Committee approved the following action:

Draft legislation to create a State-supported, need-based \$5 million grant program for the 2015–2017 Biennium to provide financial aid to low-income students attending community colleges and the Nevada State College. (BDR –593)

IV. CONCLUSION

This report presents a summary of the bill drafts requested by the Committee for discussion before the 2015 Nevada Legislature and other Committee actions to express its position on important matters.

V. APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Appendix A	
Senate Bill 391 (Chapter 494, <i>Statutes of Nevada 2013</i>)	11
Appendix B	
Reports of Subcommittees	17
Appendix C	
Letter From NSHE Responding to Committee Recommendations.....	23
Appendix D	
Community College Active Advisory Boards.....	27
Appendix E	
Suggested Legislation.....	33

APPENDIX A

Senate Bill 391 (Chapter 494, *Statutes of Nevada 2013*)

Senate Bill 391
(Chapter 494, *Statutes of Nevada 2013*)

Senate Bill No. 391—Senators Cegavske, Goicoechea, Hammond,
Hutchison, Roberson; Gustavson, Hardy and Settelmeyer

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law provides for the administration of community colleges by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada within the Nevada System of Higher Education. (NRS 396.020) **Section 2** of this bill directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges in this State. **Section 3** of this bill requires the committee to appoint two or more subcommittees, including the Subcommittee on Governance and Funding and the Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment, and to develop the mission and duties of each subcommittee. **Section 3.5** of this bill requires the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Nevada System of Higher Education to provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee and its subcommittees at the request of the Chair of the committee.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~(proposed material)~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. The Nevada System of Higher Education, which is governed by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, encompasses several different types of institutions of higher education, including, without limitation, community colleges;
2. Community colleges are a key component of the State Plan for Economic Development developed by the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development;
3. Certain community colleges have a regional presence for vast areas of rural Nevada;
4. Recent economic problems in this State highlight the need for community colleges to be responsive to the students, business communities and regions of this State that they serve; and
5. It is important to determine whether a new method of governing and funding community colleges in this State is necessary to improve and advance the purpose of the State's community colleges.



Sec. 2. 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges in this State.

2. The committee must be composed of six Legislators as follows:

(a) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(b) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;

(c) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

(d) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly.

3. The Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the committee.

4. The committee shall consult with and solicit input from persons and organizations with expertise in matters relevant to the governance structures of and funding methods for community colleges in this State.

5. The committee shall submit a report of its findings, including, without limitation, any proposed changes to the governance structure of or funding methods for community colleges in this State and any recommendations for legislation, to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 3. In studying the governance structures of and funding methods for community colleges in this State, the committee appointed pursuant to section 2 shall:

1. Appoint two or more subcommittees, which must include:

(a) The Subcommittee on Governance and Funding, which consists of:

(1) Three members who are members of the committee appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act, appointed by the Chair of the committee;

(2) One member who is a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, appointed by the Chair of the Board;

(3) One member who is a representative of K-12 education, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction;

(4) Two members who are representatives of local governments, appointed by the Nevada Association of Counties, or its successor organization;

(5) One member who is a representative of local governments, appointed by the Nevada League of Cities, or its successor organization; and



(6) Any other members appointed by the Chair of the committee.

(b) The Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment, which consists of:

(1) Three members who are members of the committee appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act, appointed by the Chair of the committee;

(2) One member who is a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada, appointed by the Chair of the Board;

(3) Three members who are representatives of the business and economic development communities of this State, one of whom must be a representative of northern Nevada, one of whom must be a representative of southern Nevada and one of whom must be a representative of rural Nevada, appointed by the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development;

(4) One member who is a representative of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, appointed by the Director of the Department; and

(5) Any other members appointed by the Chair of the committee.

2. Develop the mission and duties of each subcommittee appointed pursuant to subsection 1, which must include, without limitation:

(a) Reviewing national best practices of governance of and funding methods for community colleges;

(b) Examining effective relationships among local school districts, workforce development and community colleges and making recommendations concerning how this State can strengthen such relationships to improve student achievement;

(c) Examining effective relationships between business and industry and community colleges and making recommendations concerning how this State can strengthen such relationships to better prepare students for entry into the workforce;

(d) Reviewing the mission of each community college in this State, which must include a determination of whether, over the 10-year period immediately preceding the review, the mission of the community college has changed and whether changes to the academic programs of the community college have enhanced or undermined that mission; and

(e) Determining whether it is advisable to transfer the administration of community colleges from the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to another governmental entity and:



(1) If such a transfer is determined to be advisable, determining the best methods of accomplishing the transfer; and

(2) If such a transfer is determined not to be advisable, determining whether there are other options available that would improve the governance structure of and funding methods for community colleges.

Sec. 3.5. The Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Nevada System of Higher Education shall provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act and its subcommittees as requested by the Chair of the committee.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.



APPENDIX B

Reports of Subcommittees

MARILYN K. KIRKPATRICK

ASSEMBLYWOMAN

District No. 1

SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEES:

Vice Chair

Commerce and Labor

Member

Taxation

Ways and Means



State of Nevada Assembly

Seventy-Seventh Session

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June 10, 2014

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair
Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges
246 Garfield Drive
Henderson, Nevada 89074-1027

Dear Chair Woodhouse:

On June 2, 2014, the Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment held its final meeting and work session. During the meeting, the Subcommittee voted to forward several recommendations to the Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges. The purpose of this letter is to convey those recommendations to you for your consideration and possible inclusion in the work session of the full Committee.

Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges. The idea of supporting a position within NSHE to act as a liaison and coordinator for community colleges has been discussed since the first meeting of your Committee. Our Subcommittee had several conversations concerning the creation of this position and felt strongly that the Vice Chancellor position should be considered by the full Committee during its final meeting. In our discussions, we identified several issues that the Committee may wish to consider, including: the position's reporting structure, job duties, accountability, and preservation of independence for position. The members voted to recommend to the full Committee that the position be created within NSHE.

Support for Programs Allowing High School Students to Earn College Credit. The Subcommittee received a letter from Senator Smith, Chair, Subcommittee on Governance and Funding, containing recommendations submitted by Clark County Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani related to academics and workforce alignment. After discussion, the members voted to express support for the recommendations, which include the expansion of community college high schools to create high school student opportunities on more campuses, and the expansion of dual credit courses, including apprenticeships and certificate opportunities. The members also expressed support of the expansion of advance placement courses in Nevada high schools.



Senator Joyce Woodhouse

Page 2

June 10, 2014

Advisory Boards and Committees. The final recommendation addresses the various advisory boards and committees providing input to community colleges on such matters as curriculum and course and program development. The members voted to recommend to the Committee that a review of all boards and committees be conducted by the community colleges to ensure they are effective and not duplicative, and that a report on the findings on the review be provided to the 2015 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding any of the recommendations outlined in this letter.

Sincerely,



Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair
Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment
Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges

MK/ch:W142288

cc: Kelly Richard, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB

DEBBIE SMITH

SENATOR
District No. 13

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

COMMITTEES:

Chairman

Finance

Vice Chair

Health and Human Services

Member

Revenue and
Economic Development



State of Nevada
Senate
Seventy-Seventh Session

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June 13, 2014

**Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair
Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges
246 Garfield Drive
Henderson, Nevada 89074-1027**

Dear Chair Woodhouse,

At the conclusion of its June 9, 2014, meeting, the Governance and Funding Subcommittee of the Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges approved two recommendations for consideration by the Committee at its June 17, 2014, final meeting. The purpose of this letter is to convey those recommendations to you for your consideration and possible inclusion in the work session of the full Committee. The two recommendations that the Subcommittee unanimously adopted are:

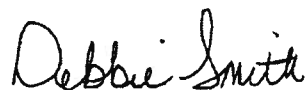
1. The Committee send a letter to the Board of Regents recommending that under the Board of Regents direction, the community colleges operate as a "system within a system" and from a statewide, shared services perspective on issues such as grant funding, academics and workforce development; and
2. The Committee send a letter to the Board of Regents and Chancellor recommending that the Board of Regents establish a Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges position, and that the Board of Regents establish a standing committee focused specifically on community colleges.

Additionally, the Governance and Funding Subcommittee heard testimony and discussed three additional recommendations that were forwarded from the Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment, as presented in a letter from Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair, dated June 4, 2014. While the Governance and Funding Subcommittee did not take action on these three items (as noted below), members did concur that two of the three recommendations should be forwarded for consideration by the full Committee. The three recommendations are as follows:

1. State Funding for Workforce Grant Programs: Consider recommending funding or support for either or both a Rapid Response Investment Fund (\$6.0 million for 2015-17 biennium) and STEM Challenge Grant Program (\$3.5 million for 2015-17 biennium). Both items were presented by the Nevada System of Higher Education. *Because this proposal was presented to the Subcommittee at the Subcommittee's Work Session, the Subcommittee took no formal action other than concurring that the proposal should be forwarded for consideration by the full Committee.*
2. Support for Need-Based Student Financial Aid: Consider supporting the establishment of a state-funded, need-based financial aid program for students. (\$5.0 million over the 2015-17 biennium). This item was presented by the Nevada System of Higher Education. *Because this proposal was presented to the Subcommittee at the Subcommittee's Work Session, the Subcommittee took no formal action other than concurring that the proposal should be forwarded for consideration by the full Committee.*
3. Support for Certain Tuition Freezes/Guarantees to Promote Completion: Promote student completion by freezing/guaranteeing the cost of attendance for 3 years or earning of degree/certificate, whichever is shorter. *The Subcommittee did not take action on this item as the Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education testified that existing Board of Regents' policy allows for these types of initiatives by individual institutions.*

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Senator Debbie Smith, Chair
Subcommittee on Governance and Funding,
Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges

cc: Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair, Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment
Kelly Richard, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB

APPENDIX C

Letter From NSHE Responding to Committee Recommendations

Nevada System of Higher Education

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November 24, 2014

Nevada State Legislature
Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges
c/o Kelly S. Richard, Senior Research Analyst
Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Via E-Mail: krichard@lcb.state.nv.us

Dear Committee Members:

When the committee adjourned earlier this year, the NSHE committed to addressing the concerns of the committee regarding the viability, stability and growth of our community colleges. On behalf of the Board of Regents and Chancellor Klaich, I'd like to provide a progress report to you, and let you know that on November 21, 2014 we reached a number of milestones that establish a platform for growth that will serve our communities, your constituents, for decades to come.

Our System Within a System is rapidly taking shape. The steps taken and now confirmed include:

- The appointment by Chair Kevin Page of an ad hoc Committee on Community Colleges, to expedite work toward elevation of our community college objectives. The committee is chaired by Regent Andrea Anderson, with Regent Kevin Melcher as Vice Chair. The committee is slated to become the Standing Committee on Community Colleges following ad hoc committee meetings on September 26 and November 21 to approve the committee charge, and make necessary changes in the Board of Regents Handbook, now scheduled for the first of two scheduled votes by the full Board of Regents on December 5, 2015 to codify the Committee. The second and final vote will occur on March 5, 2015.
- The establishment of locally empowered Institutional Advisory Councils at each of our four community colleges will be completed by December 31, 2014. The committee charge and framework were approved by the ad hoc Committee on November 21, following input being extensively solicited from stakeholders in the public and private sector of every community served by our colleges, large and small, urban and rural. We received some excellent suggestions which we included in the council charge. The nominees for each council, as recommended by the college president, and reflective of the community served by the college, were submitted by Chancellor Klaich to Chair Kevin Page. Chair Page has the final list of nominees and we expect letters of invitation will be drafted and sent to each nominee within the next week.
- The plan for the inaugural meetings of the four Institutional Advisory Councils was outlined to the ad hoc Committee on November 21, and will include the following:
 - The simultaneous opening of the four council meetings at 9 AM, February 4, 2015, highlighted by a video-conferenced address from Las Vegas by Dr. Walter Bumphus, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges. Dr. Bumphus will visit from Washington for this event, and will give an overview of the role of community colleges in today's education and

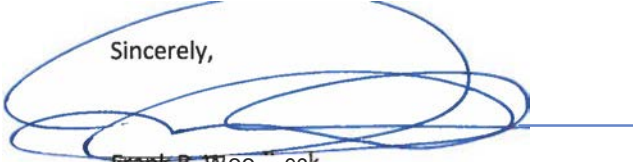
workforce development environment, and the part our community stakeholders can and should play in the growth and development of community college service to constituents and employers. He will also take questions from our audiences.

- o Following the common video conference opening, individual meetings of the Councils will be hosted by our four college presidents, to welcome the members, address the challenges faced in each community, and explain how the members may engage with the college leadership. We would be happy to share the Institutional Advisory Council charge with you.
- The approval of the position description and plan for the Chancellor to create the position of Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges was ratified by the ad hoc Committee on November 21. The Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges will be granted broad latitude to oversee the System Within A System, and in collaboration with the various NSHE departments serving college administrations, faculty and students, be the primary advocate for the colleges with the Board of Regents and other stakeholders, including legislators. In addition, the Vice Chancellor will interact with the Institutional Advisory Councils, along with the College President, to achieve the progress that will best serve the community in which the college resides. The Chancellor has committed to completing this step as soon as practical. Of great importance to the committee, the Vice Chancellor was specifically charged to work with each of our institutions to ensure the most efficient and seamless transfer and articulation among our colleges and universities.

At the committee meeting, we were pleased to report that working together our colleges applied for and were awarded \$9,921.00 - virtually the maximum amount available under phase four of the Trade Adjustment grants. Future meetings of the committee will continue to focus on critical college issues such as our response to building the necessary skilled workforce for Tesla and all companies we attract to our State.

We think the prompt deliberations and actions of this committee, and the committee's commitment to efficient and effective solutions, are laudable, and by the results noted above, evidence that this legislative process served our citizenry very well. We deeply appreciate the light your work has shone on our colleges and pledge to continue the daily work that you started.

Sincerely,



Frank R. Woodcock
Executive Director
Nevada College Collaborative

APPENDIX D

Community College Active Advisory Boards

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Community College Active Advisory Boards

College of Southern Nevada

Advisory Boards Required for Accreditation

Health Information Technology Committee
Dental Hygiene Committee
Dental Assisting Committee
Physical Therapy Assisting Committee
Nursing Advisory Board
Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board
Medical Office Assisting (Patients Assistant Advisory Board)
Ophthalmic Dispensing (Ophthalmic Technology Advisory Board)
Pharmacy Technology Advisory Board
Radiation Therapy Advisory Committee
Sonography, General (Cardiac Advisory Committee)
Surgical Technology Advisory Board (ARC/STSA)
Veterinary Technology Advisory Board
Deaf Studies Advisory Committee
Accounting Advisory
Board Business/Management Advisory Board
Paralegal Advisory Board

Discipline Specific Advisory Boards/Committees

International Languages Advisory Committees

- Italian
- French
- Spanish/Portuguese
- English as a Second Language
- Russian
- Chinese

Communications Department Advisory Committee
Fine Arts Advisory Committees
Theatre/Theatre Technology
Music
Music Business and Technology Hospitality Management
Casino Management
Culinary Arts/Pastry Arts
Food and Beverage Management
Hotel Management

Engineering Tech Joint Technical Skills Committee
Design Tech JTSC Committee
Construction Tech Committee
Business and Marketing Committee
Health Science Joint Tech Committee
Culinary, Hospitality, Tourism Tech Committee
Human Services Joint Tech Committee
Media Tech Committee Transportation Tech Committee

Other Advisory Boards

CSN Performing Arts Center Advisory Committee
Business Advisory Board
Latin American and Latina/o Studies Advisory Committee (Proposed)

Great Basin College

Advisory Boards Required for Accreditation

Teacher Education in Elementary and Secondary Education (Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Preparation)
Nursing (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing)
Radiologic Technology (Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology)
Human Service Education (Council for Standards in Human Service Education)

Discipline/Industry Specific Advisory Boards

Business Administration
Accounting
Computer Technologies
Graphic Communications
Network Technology
Office Technology
Criminal Justice
Corrections
Law Enforcement
Diesel Technology
Early Childhood Education
Electrical Systems Technology
Industrial Millwright Technology
Welding Technology

Other Advisory Boards

Great Basin College Advisory Board (Advises the President on behalf of the community, and has been very active for decades. A portion of this board will form the Institutional Advisory Council, with members serving in an official or ex-officio capacity.)

Truckee Meadows Community College

Advisory Boards Required for Accreditation

Paramedic Program Committee (reports to Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs - CAAHEP)

Veterinary Technician Advisory Committee (Animal Veterinary Medical Association)

Automotive and Diesel Program Advisory Committee (National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation)

Law/Paralegal Advisory Board (American Bar Association)

Culinary Arts Advisory Committee (American Culinary Federation)

Dental Assisting (Commission on Dental Accreditation)

Dental Hygiene (Commission on Dental Accreditation)

Dietetic Technician (Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics)

Childhood Education (National Association for Early Childhood Educators) - College commended for establishing this committee.

Nursing (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing)

Discipline/Industry Specific Advisory Boards

Building Trades Apprenticeship

Computer Technologies

Construction and Design Technologies (Architecture, Construction Management, HVAC)

Criminal Justice

Energy Technologies

Fire Science

Emergency Medical Services

Graphic Communications

Logistics Management

Manufacturing Technologies (Machining, Welding, Production)

Radiologic Technology

Western Nevada College

Advisory Boards Required for Accreditation

Nursing/Allied Health Division Advisory Board (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing)

Discipline/Industry Specific Advisory Boards

Automotive Technology Advisory Board
Construction Management Advisory Board
Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Graphic Communications Advisory Board
Information Technology Advisory Board
Machine Tool Technology Advisory Board
Welding Technology Advisory Board

Other Advisory Boards

Business Advisory Boards (Fallon and Carson City)
Carson City Campus Advisory Board
Douglas Campus Advisory Board
Rural Advisory Board

APPENDIX E

Suggested Legislation

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Suggested Legislation

The following bill draft requests (BDRs) will be available during the 2015 Legislative Session, or can be accessed after “Introduction” at the following website: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/78th2015/BDRList/page.cfm?showAll=1>.

- BDR -592 Provides for the creation, administration and funding of a Workforce Development Rapid Response Investment Fund to make grants to Community Colleges for the development of curriculum and infrastructure to meet the qualified workforce needs of industries relocating to or expanding in Nevada.
- BDR -593 Provides for the establishment of a financial aid grant program for students enrolled in community colleges and Nevada State College. .
- BDR -594 Provides for the creation, administration, and funding of a STEM Workforce Challenge Grant Program.