

Minutes approved by the Board of Regents at the March 6-7, 2025, meeting.

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
WORKFORCE COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Student Union, Ballrooms B & C
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas
Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Video Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:
System Administration, Reno
2601 Enterprise Road, Conference Room
and
Great Basin College, Elko
1500 College Parkway, Berg Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Ms. Heather Brown, Chair
Mrs. Susan Brager
Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho

Members Absent: Ms. Laura E. Perkins, Vice Chair
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan
Mr. Byron Brooks

Other Regents Present: Ms. Stephanie Goodman

Others Present: Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board
Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs
Dr. Natalie J. Brown, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Workforce
Development and Community Colleges
Ms. Lynda P. King, Senior Associate General Counsel
Dr. William Kibler, CSN Acting President
Dr. Amber Donnelly, GBC Interim President
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, TMCC President
Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, UNLV President

Chair Heather Brown called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. with all members present except for Vice Chair Perkins and Regents Boylan and Brooks. In accordance with the *Bylaws of the Board of Regents (Title 1, Article VI, Section 6)*, Chair Brown appointed Regent Brager as a temporary member of the Committee to establish a quorum.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. Sondra Cosgrove submitted public comment sharing her concerns about CSN partnering with the Southern Nevada Building Trades Unions (SNBTU) due to the SNBTU Executive Director speaking in opposition to AB305 at the 2023 Legislative Session.

2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the June 6, 2024, meeting. (*Ref. WF-2 on file in the Board Office*)

Regent Carvalho moved approval of the minutes from the June 6, 2024, meeting. Regent Brager seconded. Motion carried. Vice Chair Perkins, Regent Boylan and Regent Brooks were absent.

3. Information Only-Chair's Report – Chair Heather Brown provided updates which included: 1) NSHE received a \$30,000 grant from Ithaka S+R and Complete College America to support initiatives focused on credit acceptance, prior learning recognition, and removing barriers to access/student success; and 2) the Workforce Committee will transition from meeting twice a year to every other month in 2025, with agendas focusing on strategic workforce development initiatives, making data-informed decisions, tackling credit mobility obstacles, increasing prior learning assessment, and career/technical education alignment.

4. Information Only-GBC AND NORCAT MST Partnership – GBC Interim President Amber Donnelly and Northern Centre for Advanced Technology (NORCAT) Chief Operating Officer Jason Bubba provided a report on their partnership to expand skilled labor training and development initiatives in Nevada. The GBC-NORCAT Mine Skills Training (MST) will allow GBC, one of Nevada's principal Career and Technical Education (CTE) providers, and NORCAT, a notable leader in mining industry training, to develop and enhance workforce capabilities in the region. (*Ref. WF-4 on file in the Board Office on file in the Board Office*)

The report included: GBC's track record in workforce development; information about NORCAT; GBC-NORCAT Mine Skills Training (MST) partnership; addressing Nevada's workforce gaps; training methodology; entry-level Miner Program; modern learning methodology; learning technologies; corporate training; advisory services; GBC-NORCAT MST implementation timeline; and ensuring sustainability and long-term impact.

Regent Brager inquired if students in the program were required to stay in Nevada for a certain amount of time after earning the certification. Interim President Donnelly said many of the individuals signing up for the program are employed by companies in the state of the Nevada and any students not employed by the companies are typically seeking employment in the mining or critical mineral fields within Nevada. She further confirmed that the companies are paying directly for the students and NSHE would not be able to require the students to remain in Nevada to work after program completion. In response to a follow-up inquiry from Regent Brager, Interim President Donnelly answered that most students interested in enrolling in the program are most likely seeking work in the Nevada mining industry.

Regent Carvalho, Interim President Donnelly and Mr. Bubba addressed and discussed the following topics: the partnership between GBC and NORCAT and how NORCAT is primarily based in Canada; however, teaming up with GBC is NORCAT's first

4. Information Only-GBC AND NORCAT MST Partnership – *(continued)*

partnership in the States; NORCAT’s aim to support workers and strengthen the mining industry in northern Nevada; the AI and VR assets NORCAT brings to GBC which will help accelerate the time students spend in the program so they can earn the certificate quickly and be able to join the workforce as soon as possible; the existing partnerships between GBC and Nevada mining companies; and the entry-level miner program which is a two-week intense program (the cost varies depending on the type of training).

Chair Brown, Regent Carvalho and Interim President Donnelly addressed and discussed the following topics: education, industry and shared values; the upscaling plan to attract new students to the program as a more holistic approach to help the industry; Nevada’s first STEM; the GOED WINN fund which culminates in June 2025 and how the grant will go toward building out the learning space, building the curriculum and so forth; and 90 students to be trained in spring 2025.

5. Information Only-CSN AND SNBTU Apprenticeship Partnership – Aaron Ibarra of Southern Nevada Building Trades Unions (SNBTU), and CSN Interim Executive Director for the Division of Workforce and Economic Development (DWED) Stavan Corbett discussed a partnership to offer apprenticeship programs and courses for students seeking careers in the building trades. This collaboration combines CSN's educational resources with SNBTU's industry expertise to provide students with comprehensive training and hands-on experience. Through this partnership, students gain the skills and knowledge needed for successful careers in construction while meeting the workforce demands of southern Nevada's growing construction industry. *(Ref. WF-5 on file in the Board Office)*

The report included: background information about SNBTU and CSN DWED; program details including student eligibility and apprenticeship trades; the Apprenticeship Structure which involved Joint Apprenticeship Training Center (JATC) Trust (a committee made of union and contractor representatives that oversee the Apprenticeship Program), Director/Coordinator (manages and runs the Apprenticeship Program, ensuring students are being taught both in the classrooms and out in the field), and Instructor (teaches the apprenticeships of the trade through lecture and hand on training); Benefits: 1) Hands on Experience; 2) Earn While You Learn, 3) Lifetime Benefits; and 4) Continuous Learning; and how to apply including the application process and dates/deadlines.

Regent Brager, Mr. Ibarra and Mr. Corbett discussed the wrap-around services available to the apprentices through SNBTU and CSN.

Regent Carvalho, Mr. Corbett and Mr. Ibarra discussed the following: when students apply to the Apprenticeship Program, the CSN team works with those individuals to register them as students at CSN; recognizing that many entry-level students are not registered according to the academic calendar because the labor market drives the timeline; and how job placement and notifications for job vacancies to those who have completed the program are handled within the specific trades.

5. Information Only-CSN AND SNBTU Apprenticeship Partnership – *(continued)*

Chair Brown shared that 11 percent of CSN students are in the Apprenticeship Program and discussed how CSN serves as a workforce pipeline for Nevada.

Chair Brown and Regent Goodman shared their support for the program and thanked Mr. Ibarra and Mr. Corbett for the presentation.

6. Information Only-New Business – None.

7. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Prepared by: Winter M.N. Lipson
Manager of Board Operations

Submitted for approval by: Keri D. Nikolajewski
Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents