

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its  
WORKFORCE COMMITTEE  
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
System Administration, Las Vegas  
4300 South Maryland Parkway, Board Room  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

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. Carol Del Carlo, Vice Chair  
Mrs. Susan Brager  
Mr. Pete Goicoechea
- Other Regents Present: Mrs. Amy J. Carvalho, Board Chair  
Mr. Patrick J. Boylan  
Mr. Carlos D. Fernandez
- Others Present: Ms. Keri D. Nikolajewski, Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents  
Dr. Daniel Archer, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs  
Dr. Natalie J. Brown, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Workforce  
Development and Community Colleges  
Ms. Renée Davis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic &  
Student Affairs  
Mr. Chris Nielsen, Special Counsel to the Board of Regents  
Mr. David Singleton, Academic & Transfer Policy Analyst  
Dr. Kumud Acharya, DRI President  
Dr. Amber Donnelly, GBC Interim President  
Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, NSU President  
Dr. Karin M. Hilgersom, TMCC President

Chair Heather Brown called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with all members present. Regent Brager led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chair Brown provided the Land Acknowledgement.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – Dr. Sondra Cosgrove and Dr. Luis Ortega spoke in support of adding a workforce category to the CSN degree sheets as it would be beneficial to first generation students and students already in the workforce.

Stephanie Mead submitted written public comment requesting that when

1. Information Only-Public Comment – *(continued)*

considering the framework for Credit for Prior Learning, include in the language that institutions can accept as many required credits that are equal to the training of the institution to receive the declared degree, in addition to the residency credits and general education requirements.

2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the December 4, 2024, meeting. *(Ref. WF-2 on file in the Board Office)*

Vice Chair Del Carlo moved approval of the minutes from the December 4, 2024, meeting. Regent Brager seconded. Motion carried.

3. Information Only-Chair's Report – Chair Heather Brown expressed gratitude to everyone involved for their commitment to the new Workforce Committee meeting schedule, as it allows more time to delve deeply into critical gaps in the System. She shared her hope of the System becoming not only responsive to the current workforce needs, but also anticipating the workforce demands of the future.

4. Information Only-Credit for Prior Learning Action Plan – Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Daniel Archer presented an overview of Credit for Prior Learning (CPL), opportunities to streamline across the system, and a timeline for completion of milestones related to CPL. *(Ref. WF-4 on file in the Board Office)*

Vice Chancellor Archer's presentation included: the Common Course Numbering (CCN) system within the NSHE institutions; CCN numbering and CPL (a term for various methods that colleges, universities, and other education or training providers use to evaluate learning that has occurred outside of the traditional academic environment); an overview of Advanced Placements (AP), College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), military training, and Career Technical Education (CTE) high school courses and college credit; and the four-step CPL Action Plan starting in spring 2025 through spring 2026.

Chair Brown, Regent Brager and Vice Chancellor Archer discussed the inconsistencies among the NSHE institutions regarding CPL and how those create a compounding effect for students, staff and resources.

Vice Chair Del Carlo and Vice Chancellor Archer addressed the following topics: resolving issues with CCN; identifying CPL issues; sharing AP exam passage rates/statistics with the Board; fees associated with taking AP and CLEP exams; and staff's work on revising the policy to be less restrictive regarding community colleges accepting only up to 16 credits from non-traditional sources.

4. Information Only-Credit for Prior Learning Action Plan – *(continued)*

Chair Brown and Vice Chancellor Archer discussed achieving consistency across the System institutions and collaborating with other state agencies and community partners once the CPL plan is disseminated at the NSHE institutions.

Chair Brown, Regent Goicoechea and Vice Chancellor Archer discussed the parity in the AP and CLEP exam process and the possible adaptation of existing nationwide standards

Vice Chair Del Carlo commented on the impending demographic cliff and the importance of NSHE recruiting adult learners to attend NSHE institutions and receive upskill training that would make them eligible for better wages.

5. Information Only-Holistic Credit Mobility Project – Assistant Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Community Colleges Natalie Brown briefed the Committee on the Holistic Credit Mobility project aimed at addressing the complexities of credit mobility with Ithaka S+R, in collaboration with Complete College America. *(Ref. WF-5 on file in the Board Office)*

Dr. Brown provided an overview of the project which included: the timeline and next phases of the project; funding and collaboration; benefits of participation; learning priorities for NSHE; and the collaboration between Ithaka S+R and Complete College America.

Chair Brown and Dr. Brown discussed how the Workforce Committee can support the project by serving as the sounding board with goal development.

6. Information Only-DRI Workforce Development Efforts – DRI Vice President for Research Vic Etyemezian; Associate Research Scientist, Science Communication and Strategic Plan Implementation Lead Meghan Collins; Director of the STEM Education Program Emily McDonald-Williams; and Engineering and Robotics Education Manager AJ Long, reported on DRI's workforce development efforts, including opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students in the NSHE system to work alongside DRI scientists. Additionally, DRI presented information regarding training, curriculum, and supports provided for Nevada's Pre-K – 12 teachers through its STEM Education and Nevada Robotics programs. *(Ref. WF-6 on file in the Board Office)*

The presentation included: NSF Regional Innovation Engines Award; undergraduate immersion internship program; supporting students – graduate students at DRI; STEM Education Program at DRI and its 2024 impact; Nevada Robotics Program; educator professional development: Mentoring Educators Teaching Robotics + Innovation in Computer Science Program (METRICS), and Books + Bots; robot and drone lending libraries; community outreach and engagements – DRI's engagement with families in STEM and the 2024 impacts.

6. Information Only-DRI Workforce Development Efforts – *(continued)*

Chair Brown, Ms. McDonald-Williams and Ms. Long addressed and discussed the following: STEM education funded by multiple sources including federal funding, state grants, DRI Foundation and philanthropic donations; how funding varies by program; and the robotics program being initially funded with contributions from the Tesla education investment and Nevada Gold Mines, and is currently being sustained by grant writing, federal funds, and relationships with industry partners.

Regent Brager commended DRI on the STEM and robotics programs and the meaningful impact it has on K-12 students.

Vice Chair Del Carlo and Ms. Long discussed how the Workforce Committee can support the STEM and robotics programs by being informed and engaged.

Chair Brown shared information on the upcoming DRI and CSN days at the Legislature and DRI's research immersion internship program which increases students' confidence in working in STEM fields.

Regent Goicoechea shared his concerns about the federal funding issues and how that could impact DRI going forward.

7. Information Only-New Business – None.

8. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.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