

# BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

## Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards

June 6-7, 2024

### 2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Existing Board policy (Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18) provides for Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards to recognize NSHE faculty members with distinguished records in research. As such, the categories of these annual awards are designed to acknowledge performance at different career levels: rising, mid-career and distinguished. These awards are prestigious and highly competitive among the institutions and their faculty. In the past, the Board has approved a limited expansion in the number of awards within the categories to recognize different types of service.

During the 2024 Regents' Researcher Award selection process, the NSHE Research Affairs Council (RAC) discussed that although the award process is open and competitive, historically the award winners of the Regents' Researcher Awards for Mid-Career and Distinguished Research have been from the formal and natural science disciplines rather than humanities and social sciences, despite the fact that some nominees in these areas were nationally and/or internationally renowned within their disciplines. Possible contributing factors discussed included differences in how research is conducted and disseminated by the various disciplines, as well as the availability of grant funding by research area. Therefore, the NSHE Research Affairs Council proposes a revision to Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18 to add a Regents' Researcher Award category specific to humanities and social sciences. This revision is intended to provide an opportunity for dedicated researchers in these disciplines to be acknowledged for work that may have been historically underrecognized.

### 3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18 to include the addition of a Regents' Researcher Award for recognition of achievement in research in humanities and social science fields.

### 4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

During the 2024 Regents' Researcher Award selection process, the NSHE Research Affairs Council (RAC) requested the addition of a humanities and social science category to the Regents' Researcher Awards. If approved, this change would go into effect in time for the 2025 selection process that begins in Fall 2024.

### 5. CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase access to higher education)
- Success (Improve student success)
- Close Institutional Performance Gaps
- Workforce (Meet workforce needs in Nevada)
- Research (Increase solutions-focused research)
- Coordination, Accountability, and Transparency (Ensure system coordination, accountability, and transparency)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

### 6. INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

This proposal provides recognition of distinguished researchers from humanities and social sciences at NSHE's four-year institutions. As such, it supports the Board's strategic goal of Research. Supporting faculty research also supports opportunities for NSHE students as faculty members are a fundamental, irreplaceable component of the ultimate success of NSHE students

### 7. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

(ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE 06/06/24) Ref. ARSA-7, Page 1 of 3

Form Revised: 3/2023

- This policy revision was requested by the NSHE Research Affairs Council.
- Researchers from all disciplines should receive recognition for their accomplishments. Expanding the award to include a humanities and social science researcher award provides this opportunity.

**8. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None have been presented at this time.

**9. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

None have been presented at this time.

**10. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:**

The Chancellor's Office recommends approval of this policy revision.

**11. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_

Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18*

Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Fiscal Impact: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: The proposed award carries a cash stipend of \$5,000, the cost of which is covered by the awardee's institution.

**POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 18**

Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 18. Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards

1. [~~The~~] **Three** Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards shall be given annually to NSHE faculty members at UNLV, UNR, **NSU or** [~~NSC and~~] DRI with a distinguished record in research. Two awards will be given annually: one to a faculty member in recognition of a distinguished career in research and one to a faculty member in recognition of mid-career accomplishments in research. **A third award shall be given annually to a faculty member in recognition of achievement in research in humanities and social science fields.** Although **these awards are** [~~this award is~~] intended for individuals, groups who by their collaboration have made major advances may be recognized as well. In addition, a Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Award shall be given annually to up to three NSHE faculty members at each UNLV, UNR, **NSU** [~~NSC~~] and DRI in recognition of early-career accomplishments and potential for future advancement and recognition in research. Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher awards granted shall be referred to as the "Dr. Jason Geddes Rising Researcher Award" in commemoration of his service and dedication to higher education in Nevada.
2. The Researcher Award will carry with it a cash stipend of \$5,000. The intent is to select one individual (or group) for recognition each year for the Researcher Award. However, the Selection Committee may choose to send forward more than one nomination for the Researcher Award in exceptional circumstances. The Rising Researcher Award will carry with it a cash stipend of \$2,000 for each recipient.
3. Faculty members who receive the Regents' Researcher Award may use the title as such in perpetuity.
4. Guidelines for the nomination and selection of the recipients of the Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards and the Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Awards shall be established by the office of the Chancellor. Institutions may establish additional guidelines related to the nomination of faculty members for the Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Awards.