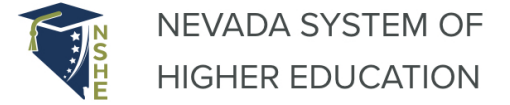NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION
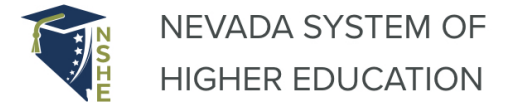
Value Proposition

Student Success and Closing Equity Gaps

Sonny Ramaswamy

President

Overview

- Trends

- Purpose

- Value Proposition

- Accreditation

- Governance

- Innovations and Opportunities

Societal Trends

- Global competition
- Population
- Pandemics
- Migration
- Demographic Changes
- Equity and Disparities
- Budget Challenges
- Conflict
- Innovations
- AI, Technology, Smart Systems
- Automation, Robotics

- Physical and Mental Health
- Ecological Footprint
- Climate Change and Sustainability
- Gig Economy
- Gig Education
- The Great Resignation
- Quiet Quitting
- Fake News, Alternative Facts
- Hyperpartisanship
- Anti-intellectualism
- Science Denialism
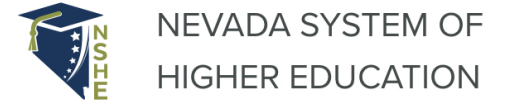
And then 2020 happened
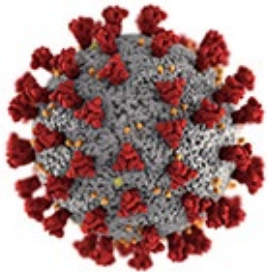
- COVID-19 pandemic
- Systemic disparities, Social injustice
- Calls for equity
- Protests and conflict

Societal Trends and Disparities

- Racial and class disparities
- Social injustice, conflict, hate crimes
- Disparities in education, access, and social outcomes
- Resource disparities
- Contentious conversations and pushback about DEI and CRT
- Hunger, poverty, environmental racism, redlining, negative physical and mental health outcomes, shortened longevity
- Isolation, homelessness, mass incarceration, structural disparities, infringement on voting rights, hate crimes, violence

https://decaturish.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/DSC0733.jpg

#CloseEquityGaps

https://www.nwccu.org
@NWCCUSonny

Trends Impacting Education

NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

https://www.wwcc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/graduation-information.jpg

- Changing demographics and Global competition
- Aging population, increasing racial/ethnic diversity, poverty levels
- Decreasing college-age population and enrollment
- Financial challenges, closures, mergers, partnerships
- Challenges with budgets, resignations, pandemic, public health issues, mandates
- Decrepitude of infrastructure
- Move to online/remote learning
- Need and opportunities for reskilling, upskilling, and continuing education
- Competition from corporate educational efforts
- Changing economy, e.g., AI, digital, knowledge, data, informatics, robots, gig
- Need to promote economic and social mobility
- Changing education models, e.g., Gig, Online, OPMs
- Calls for student success and equity
- Mental and physical health

#CloseEquityGaps

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Purpose of Higher Education

To Promote

- Intellectual growth
- Cognitive and technical knowledge and skills
- Noncognitive and core competencies
- Informed civic engagement
- Lifelong learning
- Positive health outcomes
- Social and economic mobility
- Opportunities
- Success, equity, and justice

https://tinyurl.com/35jr8f7h

https://www.nwccu.org
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NEVADA SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION
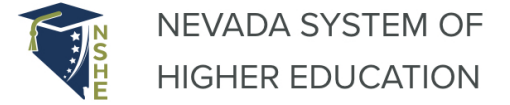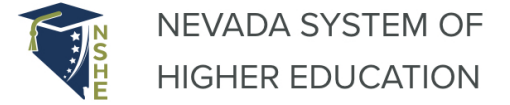
Purpose of Accreditation

- Educational quality, stability, and sustainability assessed by peer evaluators against standards, eligibility requirements, and policies

- Institutions qualify for Federal Title IV funds and grants and contracts

- Institutional reputation

- Purpose
  - Student achievement, learning, and success
  - Accountability
  - Quality assurance
  - Continuous improvement

USDE

States BC
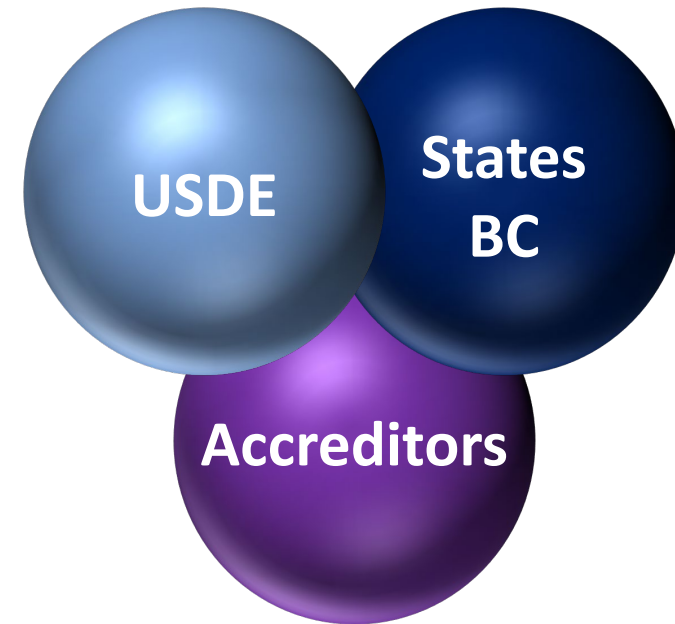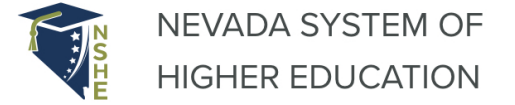
Accreditors

Value Proposition

Accreditation and Institutional Improvement

- Institutional effectiveness
  - Outcomes
    - Student Success
    - Costs and Indebtedness

- Become a learning organization

- Institutional critical thinking

- Innovation

- Programmatic improvements

- Effective governance

- Improved infrastructure

- Improved processes

- Continuous improvement

NWCCU's Vision

To be the premier accreditor whose member institutions foster access, belonging, and success of every student student

NWCCU's Mission

NEVADA SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accredits institutions of higher education by applying data- and evidence-informed standards and processes to support continuous improvements and promote equitable student achievement and success

Foci

- Student achievement, learning, success
  - Core Competencies
- Equity and closing gaps
- Disaggregated data- and evidence-informed
- Educational quality
- Institutional effectiveness

- Critical peer review
- Accountability and transparency
- Research and engagement
- Continuous improvement
- Analytical self-assessment

#CloseEquityGaps

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Standards with Purpose

NWCCU Standards

Core Competencies
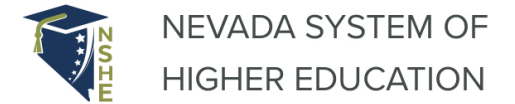
USDE Requirements

1. Student success & achievement
2. Curricula
3. Faculty
4. Facilities, equipment, supplies
5. Fiscal & administrative
6. Student support services
7. Recruiting & admissions
8. Program measures
9. Student complaints
10. Title IV

Institutional Effectiveness (QUALITY)

- Foci
  - Goals
  - Indicators
- Student Success
  - Core competencies
  - Program learning outcomes
  - Retention
  - Completion
  - Graduation

Capacity, Resources, Governance (COMPLIANCE)

- Offsite and Onsite

1. Critical thinking
2. Problem solving
3. Communication skills
4. Collaboration
5. Quantitative reasoning
6. Ethical responsibility
7. Integrative learning
8. Digital competencies
9. Information literacy
10. Global perspective
11. Learning how to learn/ metacognition

#CloseEquityGaps

https://www.nwccu.org
@NWCCUSonny
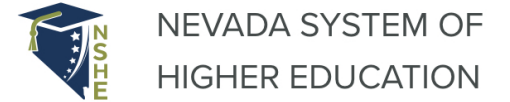
Student Achievement Measures

- Focus on student success and closing equity gaps

- Indicators disaggregated for student achievement
  - Race, ethnicity, gender, Pell eligibility, first generation, etc.

- Regional and national peer institutions comparators

- Focus on continuous improvement

- Use transparent approaches to inform strategies, allocation of resources, and to mitigate gaps

Governance

Legislature/Executive

NSHE

X

College Leadership
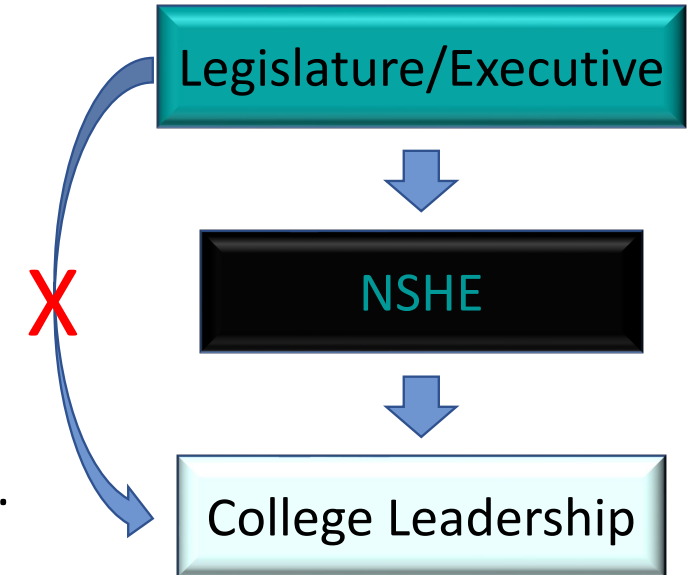
NWCCU Standard 2.A.1

The institution demonstrates an effective governance structure ….

NWCCU Eligibility Requirements

9. GOVERNING BOARD: The institution has a functioning governing board(s) responsible for the quality and integrity of the institution

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: The institution employs an appropriately qualified chief executive officer who is appointed by the governing board and whose full-time responsibility is to the institution.

11. ADMINISTRATION: In addition to a chief executive officer, the institution employs a sufficient number of qualified administrators, with appropriate levels of authority, responsibility, and accountability, who are charged with planning, organizing, and managing the institution and assessing its achievements and effectiveness.

Governance

NWCCU — NORTHWEST COMMISSION ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Duty of Care
  - Provide guidance by contributing to institution's culture, strategic focus, effectiveness, and financial sustainability
  - Serve as fiduciary by ensuring prudent use of all assets, including facilities, people, and good will
  - Fulfill legal duties
- Duty of Loyalty
  - Ensure that the institution's activities and transactions advance its mission
  - Stress group welfare, consensus, and unity in governance and decision-making
  - Recognize and disclose conflicts of interest
  - Make decisions that are in the best interest of the institution
  - Serve as ambassadors and advocates
- Duty of Obedience
  - Ensure the institution obeys applicable State and Federal laws and regulations and NWCCU Standards, Policies, and Requirements
  - Follow roles and responsibilities defined via Bylaws and Policies
  - Adhere to Board's stated purpose/mission

Adapted from: https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/board-roles-and-responsibilities

# Innovations and Opportunities

- Substantive Change Proposals
- Accelerated Baccalaureate Degrees
    - 120 credits in three-years
    - Competency-Based and Direct Assessment
    - ~90-credit degrees
- Dual Credit and Concurrent Enrollment
    - Opportunities and Challenges
- Alternative Credentials and Non-Credit Programs
    - Opportunities and Challenges
- Risk-Based Accreditation
    - Opportunities and Challenges
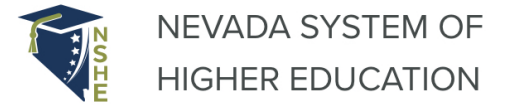
Higher education and accreditation

… are a journey

Student success and equity

… are the destination

Adapted from: https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/board-roles-and-responsibilities