

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:14:53 AM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Email: hillman.gregory.c@gmail.com

Name: Greg Hillman

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Agenda Item: 6. CONSTRUCTION OF THEATRE, EASTVIEW FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
PHASE 1, TMCC

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

Hello All,

The theatre program has always been a staple at TMCC. There is now a large following and many students are choosing Theatre as their majors. This is something that TMCC has had on the agenda for a long time and I believe the community would appreciate the space.

As the theatre program continues to grow under its new management there are so many opportunities for events and expanding the quality of instruction at TMCC in this subject.

Thank you for your time and continued support.

Kind regards,
Greg Hillman

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 9:31:44 AM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Email: adam@pioneercenter.com

Name: Adam Cates

Representing someone other than yourself?: Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Agenda Item: 6. CONSTRUCTION OF THEATRE, EASTVIEW FOR POSSIBLE ACTION PHASE 1, TMCC

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

The Pioneer Center supports TMCC in their mission to construct new theatre facilities for the benefit of TMCC students and the community at large. Under the direction of Shea King and Jared Sorenson, the TMCC theatre program has grown at a remarkable rate in a short time through curricular development and student recruitment. Shea and Jared continue to collaborate with other arts organizations, including ours, to bring TMCC students better opportunities, knowledge, and connections that will allow them to pursue work in the field from on stage, to off stage, to arts administration. The current TMCC theatre facilities have been outgrown and proven inadequate to support a program that is on the verge of something larger than TMCC has previously known. NSHE must meet this moment. Now is the time. We support this initiative. The arts are a proven economic driver and where better for local students to learn how to be a part of this regional success than at our own homegrown educational institutions. Set those students and institutions up for success by supporting this new facility!

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:42:19 AM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Email: rodhearn@gmail.com

Name: Rod Hearn

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Agenda Item: CONSTRUCTION OF THEATRE, EASTVIEW FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
PHASE 1, TMCC

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

The theatre program at TMCC has historically been an important part of the theatre fabric of our community. While certainly addressing the educational needs of students, the program also provides the greater community with a needed, diverse voice through performance programming.

In spite of space limitations over the past several years, the program has grown considerably since Covid. Providing a dedicated space complete with up-to-date technology will not only help prepare students to transition from educational theatre into higher education and/or professional endeavors, it will greatly improve the program's ability to draw local audiences.

A space such as the one planned would also provide a perfect, midsize performing arts venue that is greatly needed across Reno/Sparks. I currently teach at a high school where local companies are requesting to rent our space at a frequency far beyond what we can handle as a high school with our own programming. Bringing in audiences for rentals also exposes those performing arts audiences to the wider offerings of TMCC's theatre, boosting awareness and attendance for their productions.

Having taught at TMCC off and on for many years, both on campus in the visual and performing arts department as well as more recent dual credit JumpStart courses, I'm highly

supportive of a new theatre space on campus. This would serve as a magnet for my high school students to remain local and engage in TMCC's programming.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:50:21 PM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Email: sneace@unr.edu

Name: Sandra Neace

Representing someone other than yourself?: N/A

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Agenda Item: CONSTRUCTION OF THEATRE, EASTVIEW FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
PHASE 1, TMCC

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

TMCC's Theatre program is vital to our community. As a professor at UNR, I will tell you that we have a lot of transfer students from TMCC. Without a theatre building, they are not prepared to step into the final leg of their education. The students in our community need this building to thrive in their education. I have heard the expression that doctor's do not learn how to operate in alley ways. They need facilities. So do theatre artists. They need a space if TMCC is going to continue to be a viable institution. This program, once again, needs a space that they can nurture and support their students and do good theatre. The students are paying good money to invest in their education. They deserve this. So does the faculty at TMCC.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:33:10 AM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Email: kgibbons@washoeschools.net

Name: Kimberly Gibbons

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Agenda Item: 6. CONSTRUCTION OF THEATRE, EASTVIEW FOR POSSIBLE ACTION PHASE 1, TMCC

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

Being in an old school (Wooster High School), I understand completely the value of a newly constructed theatre. It is extremely difficult to prepare students for the theatrical job market without the appropriate resources. Many of Wooster's students with a love of the arts are on a limited/fixed income and most likely will attend TMCC. I think it vital that those students have access to the same type of space/technology afforded those attending UNR or other more expensive colleges. It could be a huge draw for TMCC as the theatre program already has the benefit of very valuable and trained professionals teaching in the program. In addition, they have been so kind as to reach out and offer their assistance to local high schools, who may be struggling, as we are normally a one person team expected to have expert/working knowledge in all aspects of theatre. This is an almost impossible feat. TMCC deserves to have the best competitive offerings and the construction of a new theatre will contribute to that.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 1:29:34 PM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Email: marybruka@gmail.com

Name: Mary Bennett

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Agenda Item: 6. CONSTRUCTION OF THEATRE, EASTVIEW FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
PHASE 1, TMCC

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

TMCC has the opportunity to support and create a theatrical space for upcoming students, veterans, seniors and community members to learn the full craft of theatre in a welcoming, affordable, expansive program that will foster a positive and enduring legacy for TMCC and those involved. As someone who not only taught at TMCC's former Keystone Theatre, but also took classes, I can affirm full heartedly that the current program NEEDS a theatrical space conducive to the teaching, learning and performance of theatre. The additional perks of use for music, lectures, community events and activities are endless. I hope that you will give this opportunity your support in the name of the current board and for the betterment of TMCC and our community.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:01:57 PM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Email: adrianoc@unr.edu

Name: Adi Cabral

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Agenda Item: 6. CONSTRUCTION OF THEATRE, EASTVIEW FOR POSSIBLE ACTION PHASE 1, TMCC

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

Theatre and Dance at TMCC is a vital part of our community. Whether through training students to join our community of artists, or preparing them for future study at UNR, TMCC is an invaluable resource for the growth and improvement of the performing arts in Reno. In 2019, their lease in a theatre facility on Keystone was canceled. Since then, they've been staging fully-realized productions in a studio classroom. A dedicated Performing Arts facility would provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of our growing artist community with academic rigor and creative excellence.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 12:44:23 AM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Email: doug.unger@nevadafacultyalliance.org

Name: Douglas Unger

Representing someone other than yourself?: UNLV Chapter, Nevada Faculty Alliance

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Agenda Item: #3 & #4 — Governor's Recommended Budget, 2025-27 Biennium; and the 2025 Legislative Session

In Favor / Opposed / Other: No Position stated – Concerned or Neutral

Comment:

The Governor's recommended budget includes a reportedly unprecedented error in the form of a structural deficit amounting to \$335 Million. My reading of the NSHE budget presentation to the Legislative Commission last Thursday, January 23rd, is that the 83rd Legislature is looking to NSHE's budget to make up a big part of this deficit, which means Higher Education may be harmfully underfunded. Most at risk is NSHE's request to fund COLA increases at 80%, also recommended by the Governor's budget. The sentiment by Legislative leaders appears to be that this 80% funding would not coincide with policies for other state budgets, thus would be "unfair" in the words of one Legislator. Another Legislator mistakenly referred to the 80% funding of COLA's as "not what we've traditionally done" as though the math error in the 81st session carried over to the 82nd session has become by now a tradition, which is baffling to those of us who've been around for a while. In my opinion, the best argument we can make to support 80% funding for COLAs is to keep reminding Legislators that NSHE is not a state agency like any other because we serve 100,000 + Students. Underfunding COLAs will negatively affect our economic impact for the state and will only perpetuate a vicious cycle that puts pressure on Regents to raise tuition and fees and/or freeze faculty positions and/or stifle key programs that will be painful to students along with diminishing their opportunities. I hope we can all unite around this realistic message— Regents, NSHE Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students. Funding of COLAs at 80% is essential to keep achieving our mission. Thank you.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 12:42:27 PM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Email: eric@renolittletheater.org

Name: Eric Boudreau

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Agenda Item: 6. CONSTRUCTION OF THEATRE, EASTVIEW FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
PHASE 1, TMCC

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

I wholeheartedly support the construction of a new theater building at Truckee Meadows Community College. A dedicated performance space will enhance TMCC's performing arts programs, providing students with invaluable opportunities to develop creativity, collaboration, and communication skills—essential for success in any field. Beyond education, this theater will be a cultural and economic asset for the Reno community, driving tourism, creating jobs, and supporting local businesses. It will also foster partnerships with local organizations and provide an accessible space for community engagement. Investing in the arts is investing in our future—let's build a space where creativity thrives, students grow, and our community comes together!

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 3:13:05 PM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Email: shinz@tmcc.edu

Name: Sarah Hinz

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Special Meeting, January 31, 2025

Agenda Item: 6. CONSTRUCTION OF THEATRE, EASTVIEW FOR POSSIBLE ACTION PHASE 1, TMCC

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

A dedicated theatre space is essential for fostering student success and enhancing the quality of education. As an adjunct theatre professor, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of our current facility on students and the limitations it imposes on their development. Reflecting on my own academic experience, the college I attended had a building solely dedicated to the theatre department, and it significantly contributed to my education and professional trajectory. With access to both a proscenium stage and a black box theatre, the department was able to produce a diverse range of productions, providing students with the comprehensive, hands-on experience needed to prepare for a variety of opportunities in the field. This exposure to professional-level environments was invaluable in shaping my successful career in theatre.

At present, the TMCC Performing Arts Department is limited to a single black box space, restricting the breadth of experiences available to our students. This constraint puts them at a disadvantage compared to their peers in more fully-equipped programs, hindering their preparedness for the professional world. Over the past few years, we have seen consistent growth in the number of full-time students declaring performing arts majors, and we expect this trend to continue. Unfortunately, our current facilities are insufficient to support this growth, both in terms of student enrollment and program expansion. A dedicated theatre building would not only enable the department to accommodate increasing student numbers

but would also elevate TMCC's reputation as an institution committed to providing high-quality performing arts education. The new space would provide the flexibility and resources needed to enhance student learning, while also positioning the department as a leader in the field.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)



NEVADA FACULTY ALLIANCE
840 S. Rancho Dr., Suite 4-571
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Date: January 20, 2025

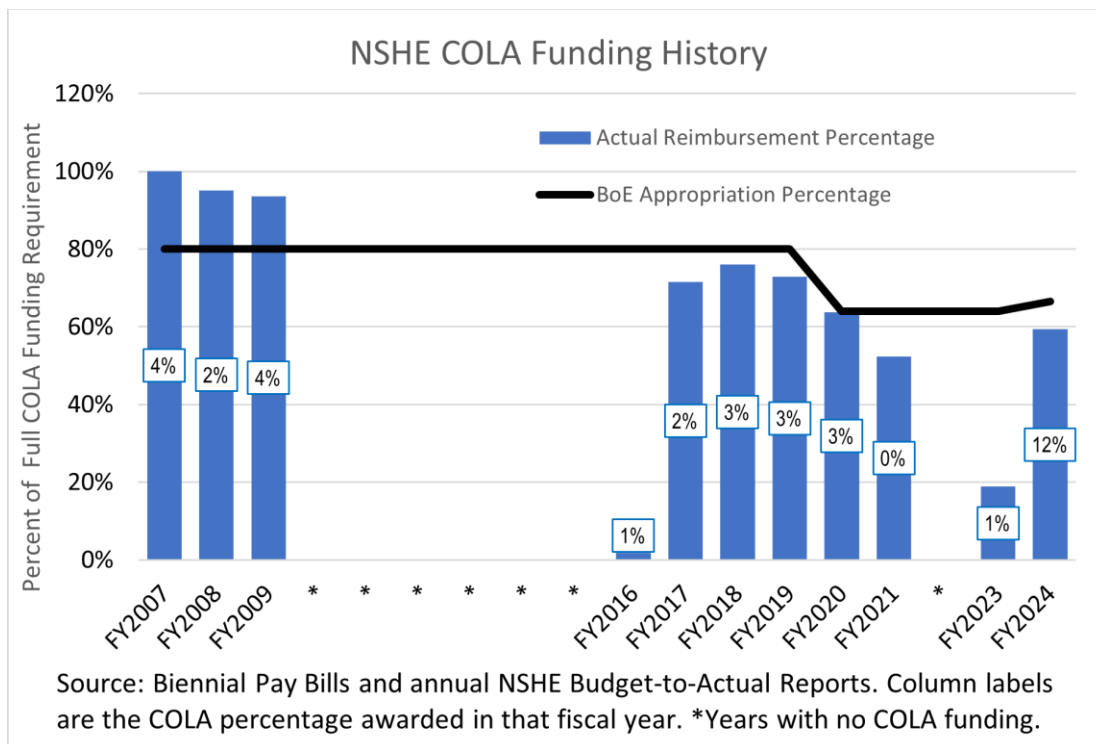
To: Board of Regents

From: Kent Ervin, Nevada Faculty Alliance, Director of Government Relations

Subject: History of Funding of NSHE COLAS.

The Governor’s Executive Budget for 2025-2027 includes an enhancement to adjust fund NSHE Cost-of-Living Adjustments from the 2023-2023 up to a minimum of 80% per budget. Because there has been much discussion of the appropriate level of funding, here is a brief history.

The following chart shows the percentage of the total required funding of COLAs, where 100% means state would fund the full cost of COLAs for all budgeted positions. The line is the percentage of full funding appropriated through the Board of Examiners. The blue columns show that actual percentage of reimbursements from the Board of Examiners, for NSHE overall.



The theory behind state appropriations of less than 100% of the COLA for budgeted positions is that natural turnover and vacancy rates mean less that 100% is required in the first budget year. Agencies had to document the expenditures after first using any surplus budget funds.

For FY2007 to FY2009, the state COLA funding at 80% was pooled statewide for all agencies and NSHE. NSHE was able to document and get reimbursed for significantly more than the 80% level. Presumably, some other state agencies received less than 80%.

For FY2010 to FY2015 following the Great Recession, no COLAs were funded by the state.

For FY2016, a 1% COLA was award to state employees. NSHE was reimbursed for only 2% of the total cost—that is, NSHE paid for 98% of the 1% COLA internally.

For FY2017-FY2019, the NSHE COLA appropriations were at 80% and reimbursement ranged from 72% to 76%. (It appears that the COLA appropriations were for NSHE only, no longer pooled statewide, or that the rules for reimbursements were otherwise changed from prior to the Great Recession to make reimbursement more difficult.)

In the 2019 session, it has been [documented](#) that an error in the calculation of the COLA appropriations for NSHE led to a 64% appropriation (80% x 80%). In the last days of the session the Governor and Legislature refused to correct the error. The actual reimbursement rates were 64% in FY2020 and 52% in FY2021.

In the 2021 session, rather than restore the prior policy of 80% funding, the Legislature created a new policy that each state-supported budget at NSHE would be funded for COLAs at the percentage of state-funding for that budget. That overall percentage for NSHE state-supported budgets combined was “coincidentally” 64%. There was no COLA in FY2022. The 1% COLA for FY2023 was reimbursed at 19%. Acting Chancellor Erquiaga later described a 1% COLA as “budget dust” in a budget hearing.

In the 2023 session, the same appropriation policy was continued but historically large COLAs of 12% in FY2024 and 11% in FY2025 were awarded to state employees, except NSHE faculty. The Governor recommended funding at 80%, but the Ways & Means and Finance Committees kept it at the lower reimbursement rate. The Legislature told the Board of Regents that the COLAs for faculty could “not exceed” 12% and 11%. In order to fund the COLAs for all employees, the institutions made serious budget cuts and have held positions open. For FY2025, to fund the COLAs for all state-supported staff, the Board of Regents raised student fees and tuition by 5% and the faculty COLAs were delayed by three months, from July 1, 2024, to October 1, 2024. The actual reimbursement rate for FY2024 was 59%.

These reimbursement rates are for state-supported budgets only. Self-supporting budgets must provide COLAs for personnel but receive no state funding.

Now in the 2025 session, the Governor’s budget recommends no COLAs for state employees in the next biennium. **With retirement contributions increasing by 1.75% and inflation running above 2.5%, a 5% COLA in FY2026 and a 3% COLA in FY2027 is required just to maintain the purchasing power of take-home pay.**

##

The [Nevada Faculty Alliance](#) is the independent statewide association of professional employees of the colleges and universities of the Nevada System of Higher Education. The NFA is affiliated with the [American Association of University Professors](#), which advocates for academic freedom,

shared governance, and faculty rights, and the [American Federation of Teachers](#)/AFL-CIO, representing over 300,000 higher education professionals nationwide. The NFA works to empower our members to be wholly engaged in our mission to help students succeed.