

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

1. **AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** UNR Request for Honorary Doctorate to Marilyn Newton

MEETING DATE: March 6 – 7, 2025

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

The University of Nevada, Reno is pleased to nominate Marilyn Newton for the Honorary Doctorate in proud recognition of her significant contributions to the State of Nevada.

Please see the Honorary Degree Nomination Form for more details (Exhibit 1).

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Brian Sandoval, President of the University of Nevada, Reno requests approval to present Marilyn Newton with an Honorary Doctorate.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

After Marilyn's 52 year long career at the Reno Gazette Journal and her continued photography of the Northern Nevada community, the University of Nevada and many members of the Wolf Pack Family feel this is an appropriate time to celebrate her historic career.

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

N/A

7. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Marilyn Newton has been an inspirational figure in the Northern Nevada community for the past five decades.
- She began her career in journalism at the age of 12 when her and her sister became some of the first paper delivery girls in the entire country. Later that year, she published her first story in the Nevada Appeal, based out of Carson City. At the age of 13, she took her first published photo, and for the last fifty years, she hasn't put her camera down.
- After a semester at the University of Nevada, she got hired at the Reno Evening Gazette (Reno Gazette Journal) where she took on many roles, finally landing her the position of the first female photographer at the paper.
- Through her 52-year tenure at the paper, Marilyn documented and reported on thousands of stories here in Nevada, helping tell the history of what it means to be a Nevadan. One of her photos was even nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.
- In 1992 she was named the Nevada Photographer of the year and in 2002, she was inducted into the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame.

- Countless photos of Marilyn's have been donated to the University of Nevada and are stored in Special Collections.

8. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been noted.

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

N/A

10. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office recommends approval.

11. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No _____
Explain: _____



Honorary Degree Nomination Form

1. Degree to be Awarded:

Honorary Doctorate
 Honorary Baccalaureate

Honorary Masters
 Honorary Associate

2. Please state the name and address of your nominee for an Honorary Degree.

Marilyn Newton - [REDACTED]

3. Honorary degrees shall be awarded to persons who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the quality of academic programs and academic life at one of the NSHE's institutions. Persons currently holding public elected office are not eligible for the degree except in extraordinary circumstances.

What are your reasons for nominating this person? (Attach additional pages, if necessary.)

Marilyn Newton has been an inspirational figure in the Northern Nevada community for the past five decades. From a young age, Marilyn has always been a trailblazer. She began her career in journalism at the age of 12 when her and her sister became some of the first paper delivery girls in the entire country. Later that year, she published her first story in the Nevada Appeal, based out of Carson City. At the age of 13, she took her first published photo, and for the last fifty years, she hasn't put her camera down. (Continued on next page)


President

Date

1.22.25

University of Nevada, Reno
Institution

(B/R 3/03; Added 6/05; A. 3/24)



University of Nevada, Reno

Brian Sandoval
President

Honorary Degree Nomination – **Marilyn Newton**

Reasons for nomination:

Marilyn Newton has been an inspirational figure in the Northern Nevada community for the past five decades. From a young age, Marilyn has always been a trailblazer. She began her career in journalism at the age of 12 when her and her sister became some of the first paper delivery girls in the entire country. Later that year, she published her first story in the Nevada Appeal, based out of Carson City. At the age of 13, she took her first published photo, and for the last fifty years, she hasn't put her camera down.

After a semester at the University of Nevada, she got hired at the Reno Evening Gazette (Reno Gazette Journal) where she took on many roles, finally landing her the position of the first female photographer at the paper. Through her 52-year tenure at the paper, Marilyn documented and reported on thousands of stories here in Nevada, helping tell the history of what it means to be a Nevadan. One of her photos was even nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

In 1992 she was named the Nevada Photographer of the year and in 2002, she was inducted into the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame. Countless photos of Marilyn's have been donated to the University of Nevada and are stored in Special Collections.

I am honored to nominate Marilyn for this prestigious award as I cannot think of someone who has done more to improve the academic environment surrounding women's education and role in the workplace than she. After starting her education at the University, I believe it is fitting that we honorarily award her with her final degree.

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