



Nevada System of Higher Education

System Administration
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
(775) 784-4901

System Administration
4300 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
(702) 889-8426

SUMMARY OF CONTRACT TERMS TRUCKEE MEADOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT CLARISSA M. COTA, J.D.

- 1) **Base Salary:** \$315,000.00 per fiscal year.
- 2) **4-Year Contract Term:** The Agreement shall commence on July 1, 2025, and, except as otherwise provided, shall continue through the close of business on June 30, 2029.
- 3) **COLA:** Employee is eligible for Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) approved by, and to the extent funded by, the Nevada State Legislature during the Term of the Agreement.
- 4) **Car Allowance:** \$8,000 per fiscal year.
- 5) **Housing Allowance:** \$12,000 per fiscal year.
- 6) **Host Account:** \$5,000 per fiscal year.
- 7) **Discipline and Termination:**
 - a. Without Cause: Employee entitled to a lump sum payment for COBRA coverage and Base Salary for six (6) months or for the remaining Term of the Agreement, whichever is less.
 - b. Termination For Cause: The Employee is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement and Board of Regents *Bylaws*, Title 1, Article VII, Section 5.
 - c. Administrative Leave: The Chancellor, in consultation with the Board Chair, may place Employee on paid administrative leave during disciplinary proceedings.
 - d. Termination For Convenience: Employee may terminate the Agreement upon sixty (60) calendar days' notice.

PRESIDENT EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE

NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

ON BEHALF OF

TRUCKEE MEADOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AND

CLARISSA M. COTA, J.D.

PRESIDENT EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

between
Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education,
and
Clarissa M. Cota, J.D.

This President Employment Agreement (this "Agreement") is effective this 8th day of May, 2025 (the "Effective Date"), contingent upon the approval of the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education (the "Board of Regents" or the "Employer"), by and between the Board of Regents, on behalf of the Truckee Meadows Community College, and Clarissa M. Cota, J.D. (the "President" or the "Employee").

ARTICLE 1 PURPOSE

The Board of Regents and the Employee have entered into this Agreement because the Board of Regents desires to contract with the Employee to serve as the President of Truckee Meadows Community College (the "Institution" or "TMCC") for the period set forth in Article 3. The Board of Regents and the Employee agree that the President of the Institution conducts professional activities under circumstances unique in the Institution community and among Institution employees. The Employee desires to obtain the opportunities of employment with the Board of Regents which are set forth in this Agreement. For these reasons, the Board of Regents has agreed to employ the Employee and the Employee has promised to be employed by the Board of Regents upon the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 2 PUBLIC DOCUMENT

The parties agree that this Agreement is a public document and that the Board of Regents may release copies of this Agreement to persons requesting the same.

ARTICLE 3 TERM OF EMPLOYMENT, NOTICE OF NON-RENEWAL, MANDATORY BACKGROUND CHECK, AND EMPLOYEE'S CERTIFICATION OF TRUTH AND ACCURACY OF MATERIALS AND REPRESENTATIONS

3.1. Term of Employment.

The Employee's employment hereunder, subject to the approval of the Board of Regents, shall be for a term of four (4) years and shall commence on July 1, 2025, and, except as otherwise provided herein, shall continue until this Agreement terminates upon the close of business on June 30, 2029 (the "Term").

3.2. Notice of Non-renewal.

THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT EXPRESSLY UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE CONSTITUTE THE NOTICE TO THE EMPLOYEE OF THE NONRENEWAL OF EMPLOYMENT AS PRESIDENT AND EMPLOYEE'S EMPLOYMENT WILL TERMINATE UPON THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE DATE SET FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE 3, AND THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION ("NSHE") CODE (BOARD OF REGENTS' HANDBOOK, TITLE 2) (HEREINAFTER, "CODE") TO THE CONTRARY, NO OTHER NOTICE OF NONRENEWAL OF EMPLOYMENT SHALL BE REQUIRED.

3.3. Mandatory Background Check.

3.3.a. Initial Background Check.

The Employee is subject to a mandatory initial background check to be undertaken and completed within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date of this Agreement (the "Initial Background Check"). The Employee's academic degrees and credentials must be confirmed as part of the Initial Background Check. This Agreement is contingent upon

the successful completion of the passing of an appropriate background check. Employee agrees that Employee's failure to pass the Initial Background Check to the satisfaction of the Chancellor, in consultation with the Board Chair, in their sole and absolute discretion, constitutes grounds to invalidate and void this Agreement upon written notification to employee and opportunity to respond. The Employee further acknowledges and agrees that no further administrative process is required.

3.3.b. Supplemental Background Check.

Following initial employment, the Employee is subject to and hereby consents to additional supplemental background check(s) at the discretion of the Chancellor at any time during employment (each a "Supplemental Background Check"). Should any Supplemental Background Check reveal undisclosed past conduct of significant concern that occurred before the Effective Date, the Chancellor, in consultation with the Board Chair and in their sole and absolute discretion, may invalidate and void this Agreement upon written notification to employee and opportunity to respond. Should any Supplemental Background Check reveal undisclosed conduct of significant concern that occurred after the Effective Date, the Chancellor, in consultation with the Board Chair and in their sole and absolute discretion, may find immediate cause for termination of this Agreement pursuant to Article 6.

3.4. Employee's Certification of Truth and Accuracy of Materials and Representations.

The Employee does hereby certify and declare that the Employee's application materials, including but not limited to resumes and curriculum vitae submitted in support of candidacy for employment are a true and accurate representation of the Employee's education, credentials, qualifications, experience, and background and acknowledges that falsification of employment applications or documents submitted to the NSHE, or making other false or fraudulent representations in securing employment is prohibited. Employee agrees that falsification or misrepresentation of education, credentials, qualifications, experience, or background and/or evidence that degrees offered in support of candidacy for employment have been issued from non-accredited institutions, make this Agreement voidable. In the Employer's sole and absolute discretion, the Employer may declare the Agreement void and immediately proceed with termination for cause pursuant to Article 6.

3.5. Sole Employment Agreement

Upon the Effective Date, the terms and conditions of this Agreement, as set forth herein, shall constitute the sole Employment Agreement between the Board of Regents and the Employee. Employee represents and warrants that Employee has disclosed any and all existing contracts, understandings, or agreements, oral or written, regarding Employee's employment by the Board of Regents, including any contracts, understandings, or agreements with the Institution or any of its agents. Employee shall not be eligible for tenure upon hire as set forth in NSHE Code Title 2, Chapter 4 without prior Board of Regents approval.

ARTICLE 4 POSITION

4.1. Employment as President of TMCC.

4.1.a. Position.

The Employee is hereby employed by the Board of Regents to serve in the position of President of TMCC. Throughout the Term, the Employee shall use the Employee's best full-time energies and abilities for the exclusive benefit, and at all times in the best interests, of the Board of Regents, NSHE and the Institution.

4.1.b. President is Administrator and Reassignment.

The Employee is an "administrator" as that term is defined by the policies, rules and regulations of the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education and is subject to reassignment by the Chancellor in consultation with the Board Chair, at their sole discretion. Notwithstanding the provisions in NHSE Handbook, Title 4, Chapter 3, in the event that the Employee is reassigned to duties other than those as President during the Term of this Agreement, the Employee's compensation shall be limited to the Base Salary and fringe benefits set forth in Articles 5.1 and 5.2 of this Agreement.

4.2. Description of Employee's Responsibilities.

4.2.a. Recognition of Duties.

The Employee agrees to be a loyal employee of the Board of Regents. The Employee agrees to devote the

Employee's best efforts full-time to the performance of all duties for the Board of Regents and to give proper time and attention to furthering the Employee's responsibilities and to comply with all rules, regulations, policies, and decisions established or issued by the Board of Regents, the NSHE and the Institution. The Employee agrees that, notwithstanding any provision of Article 5.6 herein, during the Term, the Employee will not engage, directly or indirectly, in any business or investments that would materially detract from or interfere with the Employee's ability to apply best efforts to the performance of all duties hereunder.

4.2.b. General Duties and Responsibilities of Employee.

During the Term, the Employee agrees to undertake and perform properly, efficiently, to the best of the Employee's ability and consistent with the standards of the Board of Regents all duties and responsibilities attendant to the position of President as set forth in Article 4.2.c below.

All standards, requirements and policies of the Board of Regents, NSHE and the Institution shall also be observed by the Employee and members of the Employee's staff at all times. As President, the Employee will publicly support the mission and policies of the Board of Regents, NSHE and the Institution. The Employee shall not exhibit any behavior that brings the Employee, the Board of Regents, NSHE or the Institution into public disrepute, contempt, scandal or ridicule or in any behavior that is unfavorable to the reputation or ethical standards of the Board of Regents, NSHE or the Institution. In the Employee's position as President, the Employee is held directly accountable by the Board of Regents and/or the Chancellor for these general responsibilities.

4.2.c. Duties and Responsibilities while Employed as President.

The duties and responsibilities assigned to the Employee in connection with this position as President of the Institution are set forth in the Board of Regents Handbook, the NSHE Procedures and Guidelines Manual and the Institution policies, procedures and bylaws, as they may be amended from time to time, each of which is incorporated herein by reference. Specific job duties and responsibilities, as set forth in the Board of Regents Bylaws, Article 7, Section 4, and as may be amended from time to time, include, but are not limited to:

1. Leadership
Providing leadership in the planning and implementation necessary for the successful operation of the Institution and to ensure that the Institution develops to its potential;
2. Appointing Authority
Serving as the appointing authority for all professional personnel of the Institution, subject only to the Nevada System of Higher Education Code, and to execute personnel contracts;
3. Personnel
Reviewing the quality of performance of all professional personnel of the Institution and to either take final action or to recommend action to the Board of Regents on personnel matters in conformity with the Nevada System of Higher Education Code;
4. Budget
Making recommendations concerning the budget of the Institution and administering the approved budgets of the Institution in accordance with NSHE policies;
5. Grants, Contracts and Gifts
Authorizing the transmission of applications or requests for grants, contracts or gifts to individuals, foundations, corporations, and the federal government;
6. Spokesperson
Serving as the principal spokesperson of the Institution and, in concert with the Chancellor, and representing the Institution before the Board of Regents, the Legislature, and all other appropriate bodies;
7. Compliance
Ensuring compliance by the Institution (by and through its professional personnel), with the NSHE Code, NSHE policies, the Board of Regents Bylaws, and institutional bylaws;
8. Communication
Notifying the Board of Regents as soon as practicable of campus events that may have significant impact on the Institution including, but not limited to, the reputation or public image of the Institution; and

9. Additional Duties

Performing such additional duties as the Board of Regents may direct.

4.3 Other Duties and Responsibilities.

In addition to the duties and responsibilities set forth in Section 4.2.c, above, the Employee shall have the following additional duties and responsibilities:

4.3.a. Budget.

The Employee shall annually prepare a detailed budget for the Institution and submit the budget to the Chancellor and the Board of Regents in accordance with all applicable policies and procedures. The Employee shall also manage and administer the approved budget for the Institution in accordance with all applicable policies and procedures.

4.3.b. Fundraising.

The Employee acknowledges that fundraising and resource development are important to the development of the Institution and that the Employee is expected to continually engage in such activities for the betterment of the Institution. The Employee will prepare and execute capital campaigns and other fundraising plans for the Institution as directed by the Chancellor or the Board of Regents.

4.4. Reporting Relationship.

The Employee shall report to the Chancellor for the administration of the institution and is accountable through the Chancellor to the Board of Regents.

4.5. Annual and Periodic Performance Evaluations.

The Employee's annual and periodic evaluation of performance of job duties and responsibilities shall be performed in accordance with the provisions of the NSHE Procedures and Guidelines Manual, Chapter 2, Section 2, as amended from time to time. These evaluations also will take into account prior evaluations and the expectations and goals set for the Employee in such prior evaluations.

4.6. Compliance with all Policies and Procedures as Amended.

The Employee must comply with all policies and procedures of NSHE and the Institution, and as they may be adopted or amended from time to time during the Term of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 5
COMPENSATION**

In consideration for the promises the Employee has made in entering into this Agreement, the Employee shall be entitled to the compensation as described below. All payments, including non-cash consideration and benefits are subject to normal deductions and withholding of all applicable state, local and federal taxes, including all provisions, regulations and guidelines of the Internal Revenue Code, and for any retirement or other benefits to which the Employee is entitled or in which the Employee participates, and are subject to the terms and conditions of Article 6 hereof concerning termination of this Agreement and Article 7 hereof concerning restrictions on competitive employment.

5.1. Base Salary and COLA.

5.1.a Base Salary.

The base salary paid to the Employee for all services and satisfactory performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be at the base rate of Three Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$315,000.00) ("Base Salary") per fiscal year (a fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends the following June 30), prorated to the portion of the fiscal year the Employee is actually employed, and payable in equal monthly installments to the Employee on the first working day of each consecutive calendar month during the Term. Notwithstanding this Article 5.1, in the event there are salary reductions throughout the Nevada System of Higher Education for any fiscal year during the Term, the Employee's salary shall be reduced by the same percentage and in the same manner as other employees of the NSHE through the mechanisms required by the Board of Regents, such as, for example, salary reduction and unpaid leave days.

5.1.b. COLA.

The Employee shall only be eligible for Cost of Living (COLA) increases that are specifically approved and to the extent funded by the Nevada State Legislature during the Term of the Agreement. Approved COLAs shall be reduced by any amount the COLA is not funded by the legislature.

5.1.c. Fringe Benefits.

Except as provided herein, the Employee shall be entitled to the standard fringe benefits provided to all other professional employees of the NSHE including, but not limited to, retirement contributions based upon the Base Salary paid pursuant to Article 5.1 of this Agreement, insurance, annual leave, and sick leave.

5.2. Initial Employment Allowance and Expenses

Reimbursement to the Employee for all travel and out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred for the purpose of and in connection with the performance of the Employee's duties under this Agreement shall be made in accordance with standard State reimbursement rates and procedures of NSHE and the Institution upon presentation of standard travel reimbursement forms, vouchers or other statements itemizing such expenses in reasonable detail. For purposes of this Agreement, the Employee's primary residence shall be in Washoe County, Nevada and the Employee's eligibility for reimbursement for travel and other out-of-pocket expenses shall be based on Employee's single primary residence as set forth in section 5.3.b.

5.3. Automobile and Housing Allowance.

While serving as President, additional perquisites consisting of an automobile allowance and a housing allowance shall be provided in recognition of the requirements of this position and paid in lieu of furnishing an automobile and a house to the Employee as follows:

5.3.a. Automobile.

An automobile allowance of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) per fiscal year, paid in equal monthly installments and prorated for partial months of service, which shall be in lieu of reimbursement for use of a private vehicle on official business within a fifty-mile radius of the Employee's primary residence.

5.3.b. Housing.

An annual housing allowance of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) per fiscal year, paid in equal monthly installments and prorated for partial months of service. The annual housing allowance is the only amount paid for housing no matter the number or location of houses or residences utilized by the Employee. For the purpose of this Agreement, Employee's primary residence to which this allowance applies shall be in Washoe, Nevada.

5.4. Host Account.

The Employee shall have the use of an annual host account of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per fiscal year only while serving as the President. The host account for partial fiscal years of service as the President will be prorated. Expenditures from the host account must conform to policies established by the Board of Regents and the Chancellor. Host account funds may be used to pay for transportation, lodging, and meal expenses (in accordance with the standard state reimbursement rates) of the Employee's spouse, companion or domestic partner when Employee's spouse, companion or domestic partner is expected to accompany the Employee to events outside the fifty-mile radius from the primary residence in 5.3.b for the purpose of assisting the Employee in representing the Institution. The use of host account funds for out-of-state travel by the Employee's spouse, companion or domestic partner will require prior approval by the Chancellor.

5.5. Outside Activities/Conflicts of Interest/Competing Organizations.

5.5.a. Chancellor's Approval Required.

The Employee acknowledges that NSHE and Institution Conflict of Interest/Compensated Outside Services Policies and all related rules and procedures thereunder apply to the Employee during the term of this Agreement. Consistent with such policies, the Employee agrees for the Term not to serve, directly or indirectly, as an employee or otherwise, as a director, personnel executive, advisor and/or consultant, nor perform related services for any organization, club or group, with or without compensation, without the prior written consent of the Chancellor, which consent can be withheld in the Chancellor's sole and absolute discretion. During the Term of employment hereunder, the Employee shall not make or continue to hold any investment in or be associated with any enterprise, which could be deemed to be competitive or in conflict with the objectives and philosophies of the Board of Regents, NSHE or the

Institution, without first having obtained the written approval of the Chancellor, which approval may be withheld in the Chancellor's sole and absolute discretion.

5.5.b. NSHE is Not Liable.

ANY ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUTSIDE COMPENSATION OR OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES ARE INDEPENDENT OF THE EMPLOYEE'S NSHE EMPLOYMENT, AND THE EMPLOYEE HEREBY RELEASES THE NSHE, ITS REGENTS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FROM ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGES AND/OR CLAIMS IN ANY WAY RELATED TO OR ARISING FROM ANY OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES, FOR ANY PAYMENT OF OUTSIDE COMPENSATION OR FOR ANY CLAIMS ARISING THEREFROM UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHATSOEVER. EMPLOYEE HEREBY EXPRESSLY RELEASES NSHE, ITS REGENTS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS FOR THE LOSS OF ANY COLLATERAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES OR ANY OTHER BENEFITS, PERQUISITES OR INCOME RESULTING FROM ANY OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OF THE EMPLOYEE.

5.6. Compliance with State and Federal Laws.

The Employee is subject to and must comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to, the financial disclosure requirements in accordance with NRS 281.559, and the provisions of the State Code of Ethical Standards set forth in NRS 281A.

ARTICLE 6 DISCIPLINE AND TERMINATION

6.1. Discipline and Termination.

The Employee recognizes that the Employee's promise to remain as President of the Institution through the entire Term is of the essence of this Agreement to the Employer. It is also recognized, however, that certain circumstances may make it appropriate for the Employer to terminate this Agreement prior to the completion of its entire term, as follows:

6.1.a. Termination Without Cause.

The Employee serves at the pleasure of the Board of Regents and at any time after commencement of this Agreement, the Board of Regents, for its own convenience, may terminate this Agreement. The Employee may be removed by the Board of Regents at any time, without cause, and the Agreement terminated. Upon such termination, the Employee shall receive a lump sum payment equivalent to six (6) months of the Base Salary set forth in Article 5.1.a or for the remaining Term of this Agreement, whichever is less, plus a lump sum payment equivalent to Continuation of Health Coverage (COBRA) for six (6) months or of the remaining Term of this Agreement, whichever is less, at the COBRA coverage rate at the time of the effective date of termination. Upon termination, the President shall not be entitled to any remaining payments for host account, other perquisites, salary supplements, accrued annual leave, bonuses, deferred compensation, or any payments funded by a Foundation.

6.1.b. Automatic Termination upon Death or Disability of Employee

This Agreement terminates upon the Employee's death. Notwithstanding any provision of the NSHE Code to the contrary, in addition to any benefits which may be paid to the estate of the deceased Employee from insurance, retirement or any other source, the Employer shall pay to the Employee's estate the Employee's salary through the day death occurred, plus any earned, accrued but unused annual leave, if applicable under NSHE policies, together with one-twelfth of the Employee's base salary.

Upon total or permanent disability of the Employee, within the meaning of the NSHE's disability insurance for employees, the Employee is required to first use all unused accrued sick leave and, if applicable, annual leave or other leave authorized under NSHE policies. Upon the expiration of such leave or the period of six (6) months, whichever comes last, this Agreement shall automatically terminate.

6.1.c. Employee Subject to Discipline and Termination for Cause.

The Employee is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination for cause, by the Board of Regents or the Chancellor in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and/or the provisions of the Board of Regents Bylaws, Title 1, Article 7, Section 5, as amended from time to time. In addition to the prohibited activities set forth in Title 1, Article 7, Section 5, the Employee acknowledges and agrees that discipline may also be based upon any breach of the terms of this Agreement, and any violation of the policies and procedures of the Board of Regents, NSHE or the Institution. The Employee further acknowledges and agrees that the administrative process provided in Title 1, Article

7, Section 5 constitutes legal due process, and that no further administrative process is required.

6.1.d. Paid Administrative Leave

Notwithstanding any provision in the NSHE Code, the Chancellor, in consultation with the Board Chair, in their sole discretion, have the authority to place the Employee on paid administrative leave. Employee agrees that no other due process or administrative process shall be required before placing the Employee on paid administrative leave.

6.1.e. Employer's Obligations Upon Termination for Cause.

In the event this Agreement is terminated for cause, as of the effective date of such termination, all of the Employer's obligations to the Employee under this Agreement subsequent to that date shall cease. The Employee shall not be entitled to payment for accrued and unused annual leave. In no case shall the Employer be liable to the Employee for the loss of any collateral or outside business opportunities or any other benefits, perquisites or income resulting from activities such as, but not limited to, consulting relationships or from any other source whatsoever.

6.2. Termination by Employee.

6.2.a. Termination for Convenience of Employee.

The Employee understands that the Employee's promise to remain employed as President for the entire Term is of the essence of this Agreement to the Employer. The Employee also understands that the Employer is making a highly valuable investment in the Employee's continued employment by entering into this Agreement and that its investment would be lost were the Employee to resign or otherwise terminate employment with the Employer prior to the expiration of this Agreement. In recognition of these understandings, the parties agree that while the Employee may, nevertheless, terminate this Agreement prior to its normal expiration, such termination shall be only upon the following terms and conditions:

6.2.a.1. Written Notice of Termination.

The Employee, for the Employee's own convenience, may terminate this Agreement during its term by giving prior written notice to the Employer. Such termination shall be effective no earlier than sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the written notice unless otherwise agreed to by the parties in writing.

6.2.b. Effect of Termination by Employee.

If the Employee terminates this Agreement prior to its expiration, all compensation and other obligations owed by the Employer to the Employee under this Agreement will be terminated on the effective date of the Employee's termination, except such sums as are earned by and are still owing to the Employee prior to the effective date of the Employee's termination. The provisions of this Article 6.2 shall be without prejudice to any right the Employer may have under applicable law.

In no case shall the Employer be liable to the Employee for the loss of any collateral business opportunities or any other benefits, perquisites or income resulting from activities, contracts, consulting relationships or from any other sources that may ensue as a result of the Employee's termination of this Agreement.

6.3 Post-Presidency Employment Upon Expiration of Term or Termination Without Cause.

In the event the Employee is terminated without cause as set forth in Article 6.1.a, or upon the expiration of the Term of this Agreement set forth in Article 3.1, the Employee may request reassignment pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 3, Section 33 of the NSHE *Handbook*. Any such request must be received by the Chancellor prior to the expiration of the Term or effective date of the termination, as applicable.

ARTICLE 7 RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

7.1. Confidential Information.

The parties agree that in the course of employment, the Employee will have access to confidential information regarding the Institution and its programs, including donor lists and donor information, which could be used by other institutions to the disadvantage of the Institution. The Employee shall not provide, and is prohibited from providing, any such confidential information to any third party outside of NSHE or to any other institution, employees, agents or representatives, when the institution does not have authority to receive said confidential information. A breach of this section by Employee shall constitute cause to terminate this Agreement under Section 6.1.c.

7.2. Other Employment Opportunities.

The parties agree that should another employment opportunity be presented to the Employee or should the Employee be interested in another position as a President at any institution of higher education, the Employee shall immediately notify the Chancellor in writing of such opportunity or interest.

**ARTICLE 8
MISCELLANEOUS**

8.1. Choice of Law and Venue.

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada and the laws of the State of Nevada shall govern the validity, performance and enforcement of this Agreement. Any and all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement shall be litigated in a court of competent jurisdiction in Washoe County, State of Nevada, and the parties hereby expressly consent to the jurisdiction of said court.

8.2. Assignment of Agreement.

The Employee's rights and interests under this Agreement may not be assigned, pledged or encumbered by the Employee.

8.3. Entire Agreement.

THIS AGREEMENT CONSTITUTES THE FULL AND COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PARTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE EMPLOYEE AND SUPERSEDES ALL PRIOR UNDERSTANDINGS AND AGREEMENTS, ORAL OR WRITTEN, REGARDING THE EMPLOYEE'S EMPLOYMENT BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS.

8.4. Amendments to Agreement.

This Agreement may be amended at any time only by a written instrument duly approved by the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education and executed on behalf of the Board of Regents by the Chancellor or designee and the Employee.

8.5. Severability.

If any provision or provisions hereof shall be deemed invalid or unenforceable, either in whole or in part, this Agreement shall be deemed amended to delete or modify, as necessary, the offending provision or provisions or to alter the bounds thereof in order to render it valid and enforceable.

8.6. No Waiver of Default.

No waiver by the parties hereto of any default or breach of any covenant, term or condition of this Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any other default or breach of the same or any other covenant, term or condition contained herein.

8.7. Acknowledgement.

The Employee acknowledges that the Employee has read and understands the provisions of this Agreement and that such provisions are reasonable and enforceable, and Employee agrees to abide by this Agreement and the terms and conditions set forth herein. The Employee acknowledges having had the opportunity to consult with counsel of the Employee's choice regarding the provisions of this Agreement prior to signing it.

8.8. Indemnification

The Employee agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the Employer and the Employers' regents, officers, employees and agents from any and all suits, claims, demands, damages, liability, costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees and costs, arising out of the Employee's performance of acts outside the scope of this Agreement, or for acts in pursuit of outside income as permitted by this Agreement, except such suits, claims or demands in which

the Employee seeks to compel the Employer to comply with its obligations hereunder or in which the Employee seeks to enforce any remedies the Employee may have hereunder. This Article 8.8 shall survive the termination for any reason of this Agreement.

8.9. Employer Retains **All** Materials and Records.

All materials or articles of information including, without limitation, all documents, records, material or data, furnished to the Employee or developed by the Employee in connection with the Employee's employment hereunder, are and shall remain the sole property of the Employer. This Article 8.9 shall survive the termination for any reason of this Agreement.

8.10. Employee Will Not Incur Indebtedness.

It is mutually agreed and understood that the Employee shall not incur any indebtedness for or on behalf of the institution, except in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Board of Regents.

8.11. Government Immunity Not Waived.

It is expressly agreed and understood between the parties that the Employer is an entity of the State of Nevada and that nothing contained herein shall be construed to constitute a waiver or relinquishment by the Employer of the right to claim such exemption, privileges and immunities as may be provided by law.

8.12. Notice.

Any notice or communication which may or is required to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given on the earlier of either the day actually received or on the close of business on the third business day next following the day when deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, registered or certified, addressed to the party at the address set forth at its name below or such other address as may be given by such party in writing to the other:

If to the Employee:

Clarissa M. Cota, J.D.
7000 Dandini Blvd.
Reno, Nevada 89512

OR to Employee's home address
of file with Human Resources. It is
hereby acknowledged and agreed
that it is Employee's sole
responsibility to ensure an updated
and accurate address is maintained
on file with Human Resources.

If to the Board of Regents:

Chancellor
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
and
4300 Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada
89119

With a copy to:

Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents
4300 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

Employee shall update NSHE Human Resources with any change of address information immediately upon any such change taking place.

8.13. Applicability of Nevada System of Higher Education Code.

Except as expressly stated herein, the provisions of the Nevada System of Higher Education Code, Title 2 of the NSHE Board of Regents' Handbook, as may be amended from time to time during the Term, are incorporated in this Agreement. Any amendments to the Code after this Agreement is executed shall be incorporated into this Agreement and binding upon the Employee.

8.14. Force Majeure.

Neither party shall be considered in default in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement if such performance is prevented or delayed by Force Majeure. Force Majeure shall be understood to be any cause which is beyond the reasonable control of the party affected and which is forthwith, by notice from the party affected, brought to the attention of the other party, including but not limited to war, hostilities, revolution, civil commotion, strike, lockout, epidemic, pandemic, accident, fire, wind or flood or because of any law, order, proclamation, ruling, regulation or ordinance of any government or subdivision of government or because of any act of God.

8.15. Captions.

All captions in this Agreement are included for convenience only and do not constitute, nor are incorporated in, the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement or caused this Agreement to be executed, intending to be legally bound by its provisions upon approval of the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

EMPLOYER

EMPLOYEE

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE NEVADA
SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

By: _____
Patricia Charlton, Chancellor

By: _____
Clarissa M. Cota, J.D.

Date: _____

Date: _____