

**From:** [NSHE](#)  
**To:** [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:41:21 AM

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 External Email:

# Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

## Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Email:** dan.k.monroe@gmail.com

**Name:** Dan Monroe

**Representing someone other than yourself?:**

**Meeting:** Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Agenda Item:** PH.D. MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION, UNLV

**In Favor / Opposed / Other:** In Favor

**Comment:**

My name is Dan Monroe and I am a proud graduate of UNLV's Project Pueblo (Progressive Understandings of Emergent Bilingual Learners Opportunities). I was fortunate to be a part of the first cohort of graduates who graduated with a Master's degree in Education. As a current Teacher, I daily use what I learned throughout the program in order to effectively serve the needs of multilingual learners. Project Pueblo and the professors involved in the program influenced me to be the Advocate I am today for multilingual learners and families.

I am writing today to support the creation of a Ph.D. program in Multilingual Education at UNLV. I believe this program is both necessary and crucial in being able to support future leaders who will make a positive impact on the future of multilingual learner education. I believe that the fruits of Project Pueblo are a sign of hope for the future and the foundation for a much needed Ph.D. Multilingual program at UNLV.

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

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**From:** [NSHE](#)  
**To:** [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:59:57 AM

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 External Email:

# Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

## Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Email:** ventum2@nv.ccsd.net

**Name:** Maria Ventura

**Representing someone other than yourself?:**

**Meeting:** Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Agenda Item:** public commennt

**In Favor / Opposed / Other:** In Favor

**Comment:**

As a proud graduate of Project PUEBLO and an educator committed to serving multilingual learners, I want to express my strong support for the continuation and expansion of this vital program. Project PUEBLO has not only shaped my professional journey but has also equipped me with the tools to lead, advocate, and create inclusive educational spaces for linguistically and culturally diverse students.

This program cultivates leaders who reflect and respect the communities they serve an impact that resonates far beyond the classroom. I urge you to continue investing in initiatives like Project PUEBLO that empower educators and uplift multilingual learners.

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

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**From:** [NSHE](#)  
**To:** [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 8:55:58 AM

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 External Email:

# Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

## Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Email:** tracey.west@unlv.edu

**Name:** Tracey West

**Representing someone other than yourself?:**

**Meeting:** Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Agenda Item:** Proposed PhD in Multilingual Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**In Favor / Opposed / Other:** In Favor

**Comment:**

As a long-time CCSD teacher in K-2 classrooms and a current teacher educator, I know firsthand that educators need support in facilitating instruction to English learners. Many students enter our classrooms with little to no English language proficiency, and educators lack the ability to communicate with, let alone instruct, these students. A PhD in multilingual education brings the research and expertise needed to our area. In a district with the fourth largest population of English language learners, this is vital for the future of Nevada because these students are our future leaders, and effective PreK-12 instruction leads to prepared and capable adults.

Please consider granting the proposal for a PhD in Multilingual Education.

Respectfully,  
Tracey West

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

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**From:** [NSHE](#)  
**To:** [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 11:51:27 AM

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 External Email:

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## Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Email:** kantzae@nv.ccsd.net

**Name:** Alyssa Kantzabedian

**Representing someone other than yourself?:**

**Meeting:** Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Agenda Item:** PROGRAM PROPOSAL, PH.D. MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION, UNLV

**In Favor / Opposed / Other:** In Favor

**Comment:**

Through the UNLV Masters program titled Project PUEBLO (MeD), I was able to turn intent into action by creating access where barriers once existed. This program has strengthened my effectiveness as both an educator and a leader, allowing myself and others to support our staff during a critical phase in our multilingual learners' academic journeys.

Learning and applying research-based strategies for teaching multilingual learners—and supporting their language development—is essential to meeting the needs of all students. The best practices for multilingual learners are, in fact, the best practices for teaching, period.

While many researchers have made important strides in improving outcomes for multilingual learners, continued research, knowledge exchange, and collaboration are crucial to sustaining and expanding this progress nationwide. A PhD program in Multilingual Education has the potential to reshape education systems and directly address the inequities that allow 30% of our multilingual learners and 20% of all students in the U.S. to fall through the cracks with lower than average graduation rates (EdWeek 2020; Nevada Department of Education, 2024).

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

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**From:** [NSHE](#)  
**To:** [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 4:44:01 PM

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 External Email:

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## Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Email:** weathrj86@gmail.com

**Name:** Randy Weatherholt

**Representing someone other than yourself?:**

**Meeting:** Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Agenda Item:** Agenda Item 6

**In Favor / Opposed / Other:** In Favor

**Comment:**

Randy Weatherholt  
9/10/2025

**Subject:** Support for the Creation of a Ph.D. Program in Multilingual Education

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the development of a new Ph.D. program in Multilingual Education. Having personally benefited from the master's program, made possible through the Pueblo program, I have seen firsthand the importance and relevance of this field of study. The knowledge and skills I gained have not only shaped my professional practice but have also reinforced my commitment to advancing equitable education for all students.

Clark County is experiencing a significant influx of multilingual populations, and with that comes both unique challenges and valuable opportunities. It is imperative that we prepare highly skilled educators and leaders who are equipped to teach, mentor, and advocate for these students. Multilingual learners deserve educators with advanced expertise who can design effective instructional practices, foster inclusive environments, and elevate the voices of students and families from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

The proposed Ph.D. program in Multilingual Education would provide individuals with the opportunity to develop this expertise at the highest level. Graduates would be prepared to create an immediate and lasting impact in classrooms, educational organizations, and policy-making spaces. Such a program would not only expand access to higher education but also strengthen our collective ability to meet the evolving needs of our student population.

I fully support the creation of this program and believe it will serve as a vital step forward in ensuring that students have access to equitable educational professionals.

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

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**To:** [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:47:11 PM

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 External Email:

# Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

## Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Email:** alexiamcarver@unr.edu

**Name:** Alexia Carver

**Representing someone other than yourself?:**

**Meeting:** Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 11, 2025

**Agenda Item:** General Public Comment

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

**Comment:**

To the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee,

My name is Alexia Carver, I am a senior at the University of Nevada, Reno in metallurgical engineering—a discipline we call mineral processing—in which we train to design and optimize mineral value extraction in mining and other related industries.

Due to a lack of executive leadership, hard funding for faculty, as well as a wavering public opinion of the mining industry, the Department of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering at UNR has undergone a drastic change for the worse: in both teaching quality, and quantity of qualified professors. These factors have combined to drastically reduce retention rates within the department.

While University officials above the department have done their best to quickly hire replacements for attrited faculty, the money from which several salaries are drawn is “soft” funding—unsustainable for the mineral education requirements of not only today, but tomorrow’s generation of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers (MME).

I am appealing for an allowance of more qualified and dedicated adjunct lecturing faculty, or Letter of Appointments from industry for the time being while hard funding is appropriated during the next Legislative session—otherwise we risk worsening the “soft-funding” issue.

Perhaps this is not the best venue to air concerns about revitalizing the program, I would like to emphasize that we MME's are woefully unequipped in the bureaucracy of petitioning NSHE for an investment in our education; however, the mining industry has proven ad nauseam that investments in it's resilient and long-term future produce returns, and I believe that the MME program at UNR will provide the same value-addition with proper care.

Kindly,  
Alexia Carver

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

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