

**BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER**

**1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** CSN Honorary Degree Recipient, 2026 Commencement

**MEETING DATE:** March 5-6, 2026

**2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

Annual nomination of an individual to receive an honorary degree at 2026 commencement ceremony.

**3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

CSN President Stacy Klippenstein requests approval to present Frank Woodbeck with an honorary Associate's degree at CSN's 2026 commencement ceremony

**4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

Standing item for March Board

**5. CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:**

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21<sup>st</sup> century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

**INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL**

Frank R. Woodbeck retired from College of Southern Nevada in February 2025 after a career in public service. Woodbeck's distinguished career includes over four decades of public service at CSN, Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR), Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), and the Nevada Commission on Economic Development (NCED). His career also includes 36 years in the communications industry serving in senior management positions with Capital Cities Communications, The Washington Post Company, and ACE Radio Networks. He is a decorated veteran from the United States Air Force for having received the Medal of Commendation and the Vietnam Service Medal for meritorious service in Vietnam. Woodbeck is a native of Buffalo, New York where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business management and completed broadcast management programs at Harvard University.

**6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- Knows the importance of Higher Education and access for all citizens
- Distinguished career in public service and higher education spanning four decades
- Continues to play an integral role for CSN as a consultant and advisor
- Instrumental in establishing and strengthening partnerships for workforce development and the College of Southern Nevada including the recent Westside Education Training Center in the Historic Westside of Las Vegas

**7. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None

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

CSN would not present an honorary degree at graduation in 2026.

**9. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:**

The Chancellor's Office recommends approval.

**10. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # 4 Chapter # 1 Section # 15
  - Amends Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
  - Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Consistent With P&GM Ch. 8, Sec. 1.2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No x

Explain:



## Honorary Degree Nomination Form

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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.

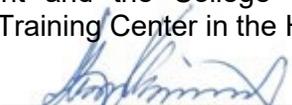
Frank R. Woodbeck  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[REDACTED]  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.)

Frank R. Woodbeck retired from College of Southern Nevada in February 2025 after a career in public service. Woodbeck's distinguished career includes over four decades of public service at CSN, Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR), Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), and the Nevada Commission on Economic Development (NCED). His career also includes 36 years in the communications industry serving in senior management positions with Capital Cities Communications, The Washington Post Company, and ACE Radio Networks. He is a decorated veteran from the United States Air Force for having received the Medal of Commendation and the Vietnam Service Medal for meritorious service in Vietnam. Woodbeck is a native of Buffalo, New York where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business management and completed broadcast management programs at Harvard University.

- Woodbeck advocates for the importance of Higher Education and access for all citizens
- He held a distinguished career in public service and higher education spanning four decades
- Woodbeck Continues to play an integral role for CSN as a consultant and advisor
- He is instrumental in establishing and strengthening partnerships for workforce development and the College of Southern Nevada including the recent Westside Education Training Center in the Historic Westside of Las Vegas

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Klippenstein, President

2-3-2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

College of Southern Nevada  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Institution

## **Frank R. Woodbeck Bio**

Frank R. Woodbeck is the Principal of Frankly Speaking, a firm dedicated to providing strategic consulting services in higher education, including grant acquisition, workforce development, and government relations; state government, including agency management and long-term planning; and broadcast management, including sales, programming, and strategic positioning.

Mr. Woodbeck retired from the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) in February 2025 where he served as Executive Director of Government Affairs and Special Projects, and where he continues to serve as a strategic consultant.

At CSN he handled the management of the Office of Sponsored Projects, which writes grants for the college; and assisting the president with special projects and new initiatives that would advance the *Students First* goals and aims of the college. He was also responsible for government affairs, including being the liaison with our federal delegation offices and staffs; coordinating activities with our Washington DC representation firm; and managing spending requests for direct federal funding on projects which supported CSN occupational training in the various academic programs at the college. CSN is the largest post-secondary institution in Nevada, and one of the largest community colleges in the nation.

Mr. Woodbeck previously served as Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development; Interim Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges; and Executive Director of the Nevada College Collaborative, during his five-year tenure with the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). In those positions, he has had responsibility for launching workforce development initiatives with the NSHE institutions; and responsible for launching and leading the effort to improve efficiency and effectiveness of certain business operations among Nevada's community colleges. He also successfully obtained grant funding, public/private partnerships, and innovative alliances with business and K-12 school systems throughout the state, and collaborations with the state university and the Tier 1 universities in Nevada.

Previously, Mr. Woodbeck was Director of the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), appointed by Governor Brian Sandoval in 2011. In this capacity, he served as a member of the Governor's cabinet overseeing the daily operations of the agency which included more than 1,000 staff members in several offices throughout the state.

Prior to becoming director of DETR, Mr. Woodbeck served as the Director of Las Vegas Operations and Workforce Initiatives with the Nevada Commission on Economic Development (NCED); and previously served as one of six Commissioners with the Nevada Commission on Economic Development.

Mr. Woodbeck's career experience also includes 36 years in the communications industry, serving in senior management positions with Capital Cities Communications; The Washington Post Company; and ABC Radio Networks with nationwide responsibilities. He was led to Las Vegas in 2001, where he launched two major radio stations, KVGs-FM / V-108 and KOAS-FM / The Oasis.

Mr. Woodbeck's professional experience extends to meaningful community service with non-profit boards. Mr. Woodbeck is an emeritus board member of the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance, where he served on the board for over a decade; founder and past board chair of Jobs for Nevada's Graduates; past chair and current board member of Three Square

Food Bank; a member of the board for Goodwill of Southern Nevada; and a member of the board for Nevada GrantLab.

Mr. Woodbeck is a decorated veteran of the United States Air Force, receiving the Medal of Commendation and the Vietnam Service Medal for his meritorious service in Vietnam.

Mr. Woodbeck is a native of Buffalo, New York. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from the University of Buffalo; and completed broadcast management programs at Harvard University. He lives in Las Vegas with his wife Suzan and son Sage.