

**BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER**

**1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** GBC Requests Approval to award an Honorary Baccalaureate Degree to Terri Clark

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

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

Great Basin College is pleased to recommend Terri Clark to be awarded an Honorary Baccalaureate degree.

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

Amber Donnelly, President of Great Basin College, requests approval to present Terri Clark with an Honorary Baccalaureate degree.

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

This is a particularly appropriate time to recognize Ms. Clark’s contributions, as her decades of leadership, service, and partnership continue to have a direct and measurable impact on students, academic programs, and community college collaboration in rural Nevada. As Chair of the Great Basin College Institutional Advisory Council and a longtime advocate for education, workforce development, and student support services, she remains actively engaged in strengthening pathways between education and employment. Her recent national recognition as the recipient of Lifepoint Health’s Mercy Award further underscores the significance of her work and the breadth of her influence. Awarding this honorary degree at this time acknowledges both her lifetime of service and her ongoing contributions to improving the quality of academic life and student success in the communities served by Great Basin College and the Nevada System of Higher Education.

**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)
- X 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:**

- Graduate of Great Basin College, exemplifying the transformative impact of higher education and maintaining a strong commitment to the institution’s mission and students.
- More than 30 years of leadership in healthcare, education, and community development, with a sustained focus on improving access to education and support services in rural communities.
- Led and supported initiatives that directly enhance student success and academic life, including the Telehealth Mental Health Counseling Initiative, a collaborative effort involving NSHE institutions that expanded access to counseling services for rural youth and college students.
- Spearheaded the Miles for Smiles program, which expanded into a statewide initiative supporting community health, workforce pathways, and educational partnerships.
- Established the Communities in Schools program in Northeastern Nevada and later served in statewide and national leadership roles, contributing to improved student retention, persistence, and graduation outcomes.

- Recipient of the 2023 Lifepoint Health Mercy Award, the organization’s highest national recognition, honoring exceptional service, compassion, and leadership.
- Demonstrates sustained and significant contributions that align with NSHE criteria for honorary degrees, including measurable impact on academic programs, student support systems, and the quality of academic life, particularly in rural Nevada.

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

None

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

Terri Clark  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[REDACTED]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[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.)

I am pleased to recommend Terri Clark for the awarding of an honorary degree in recognition of her significant and sustained contributions to the improvement of academic programs, student access, and the quality of academic life, particularly in rural Nevada and in support of Great Basin College.

Ms. Clark currently serves as Director of Medical Group Services for Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital, following five years as Director of Growth and Outreach. Over more than three decades of leadership in healthcare, education, and community development, she has advanced initiatives that strengthen partnerships between educational institutions, healthcare providers, and community organizations directly benefiting students and expanding workforce pathways aligned with regional needs.

Ms. Clark maintains a strong and ongoing commitment to higher education through her service as Chair of the Great Basin College Institutional Advisory Council. In this role, she provides strategic guidance, community insight, and advocacy that help ensure academic programs remain responsive to workforce demands and that student success initiatives remain aligned with the needs of rural communities. Her leadership has contributed to strengthening relationships between the college, regional employers, and community partners, supporting the continued growth and relevance of Great Basin College's academic and workforce programs.

Ms. Clark is also a graduate of Great Basin College, and her professional accomplishments exemplify the mission of transforming lives through education. Her career reflects the powerful impact that access to higher education can have on individuals, families, and communities.

In 2023, Ms. Clark was honored as the national recipient of Lifepoint Health's Mercy Award, the organization's highest recognition, presented annually to one individual across its national network.

