

JOE LOMBARDO
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

J.J. GOICOECHEA, DVM
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June 9, 2026

Nevada System of Higher Education

Board of Regents
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, Nevada 89512

Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the Board of Regents:

On behalf of Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), I am writing to express our strong support for the establishment of a new School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). The creation of a veterinary school in Nevada represents a critical and timely investment in the long-term health, economic vitality, and resilience of our state.

Nevada currently faces a significant shortage of veterinarians, particularly in rural and underserved areas. This shortage affects not only companion animal care, but also livestock health, food safety, and emergency response capacity. Nevada's agricultural sector relies heavily on access to veterinary expertise to maintain herd health, prevent disease outbreaks, provide emergency response to foreign animal disease, and ensure the safety of our food supply. A veterinary program in Nevada would build a sustainable, in-state pipeline of highly trained professionals who are more likely to remain here and serve these critical needs.

In addition to training veterinarians, the program would create opportunities for research, innovation, and job creation in areas such as animal science, biotechnology, and public health. This school would diversify workforce and career pathways for Nevada students, including those from rural and agricultural communities who may otherwise face barriers to entering the veterinary profession. The presence of such a program would attract faculty, students, and industry partnerships, strengthening Nevada's position as a regional hub for agriculture and life sciences.

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NDA is committed to supporting efforts that enhance animal health, protect public safety, and strengthen Nevada's agricultural economy. The creation of a veterinary school is a transformative step toward achieving these goals. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Nevada System of Higher Education, the University of Nevada, Reno, industry, and others to advance this important initiative.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,



J.J. Goicoechea, DVM
Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting, June 11-12, 2026
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026 1:29:41 PM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting, June 11-12, 2026

Email: kevin@ostengarneradvisory.com

Name: Kevin A Osten-Garner

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting, June 11-12, 2026

Agenda Item: Program Proposal: PSY.D. CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY, UNLV

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

The proposed Psy.D. program at UNLV is designed as a generalist practitioner-oriented degree, focusing significantly on youth and family services. It provides specialized education in trauma-informed practices, substance abuse treatment, and culturally responsive psychological care, with extensive opportunities for practical training and clinical experience. Nevada currently ranks 51st in the nation for overall mental health, primarily due to the severe shortage of qualified mental health providers, particularly psychologists. By 2030, Nevada is projected to have a deficit of approximately 420 full-time psychologists, highlighting the urgent demand for increased workforce development in the behavioral health sector. The state faces substantial shortages in child and adolescent mental health services. Nearly all regions in Nevada exhibit high Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) scores, indicating severe gaps in mental health service availability. The opioid crisis and widespread substance use disorders further exacerbate mental health challenges among Nevada's youth, underscoring the critical need for specialized psychological services. The Psy.D. curriculum strategically integrates courses on evidence-based psychological assessment, trauma-informed interventions, family systems therapy, culturally responsive practices, substance prevention and intervention practices, and neuropsychological assessment. Students will engage extensively with local community agencies and healthcare institutions such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Clark County Division of Child and Family Services, community health and mental health centers, and regional hospitals through structured practicums and internships.

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

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Nevada System of Higher Education
(<https://nshe.nevada.edu>)

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting, June 11-12, 2026
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2026 2:38:47 PM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting, June 11-12, 2026

Email: coffmc1@unlv.nevada.edu

Name: Carolyn Streb

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting, June 11-12, 2026

Agenda Item: UNLV PSYD Program

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

Hello my name is Carolyn Streb, I am a Las Vegas-born student with my family placing roots down here in 1930. I have seen and heard stories over generations of Las Vegas residents and seen the struggle of mental healthcare within our community. After my husband was stationed in California in the marine corps, we decided to relocate back home here in Vegas. When looking for a program for PSYD, there were limited options, and the closest many of us could go was Utah. The opportunity for Las Vegas to bring in this program would be a win for our community and for the mental health of our locals. Currently, Las Vegas sits at 51st in the nation in mental healthcare. With limited access to education, we run into the dilemma that we are at a loss for mental healthcare workers. This program will foster a new generation of mental healthcare professionals, providing a chance to raise our numbers and maintain students who may one day work within our community. I spent years looking for a doctorate program that would allow me to stay close to home and plant roots where generations of my family have lived. Creating this program would be a dream, and would allow such things to happen to not only me but also to other people who are as passionate as I am about the mental health of our community.

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

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