



James E. Rogers
Chancellor

Nevada System of Higher Education

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 3, 2009

TO: NSHE Board of Regents

FROM: James E. Rogers
 Chancellor

**RE: INCREASING SIN TAXES, FACES OF THE BUDGET CUTS, AND AN
 UPDATED FINANCIAL SCORE CARD & COMMUNITY SUPPORT
 LETTERS**

I INCREASING SIN TAXES

The Clark County Medical Society contacted me recently proposing increased taxes on alcohol and tobacco to provide additional revenue for healthcare programs. Their letter is attached to this week's missive and I'm certain it comes as no surprise to any of you that I find this intriguing. I asked James Lenhart, MD, Vice Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer / External Relations for the Health Sciences System, to prepare the information below. In fact, Dr. Lenhart's data reveals that these so called "sin taxes" not only provide tax revenue, but work to reduce consumption of these unhealthy substances.

Taxes on alcohol and tobacco in Nevada have not been increased since 2003. Many states throughout the nation are looking at taxes on alcohol and cigarettes to fund extraordinary budget shortfalls.

Let me share with you some facts. First, comparable tax rates in surrounding states as published by The Tax Foundation:

State	Sales Tax	Gas Tax per Gallon	Cigarette Tax per pack	Spirits Tax per Gallon	Wine Tax per gallon	Beer Tax per Gallon
Alaska	None	\$.08 (a)	\$2.00	\$12.80	\$2.50	\$1.07
Arizona	5.6% (b)	\$.19	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$.84	\$.16
California	7.25%	\$.353	\$.87	\$3.30	\$.20	\$.20
Colorado	2.9%	\$.22	\$.84	\$2.28	\$.28	\$.08
Idaho	6.0%	\$.25	\$.57	\$10.00 (c)	\$.45	\$.15
Montana	None	\$.278	\$1.70	\$7.90 (c)	\$1.06	\$.14
Nevada	6.5%	\$.331	\$.80	\$3.60	\$.70	\$.16
New Mexico	5.375% (d)	\$.19	\$.91	\$6.06	\$1.70	\$.41
Oregon	None	\$.25	\$1.18	\$20.76 (c)	\$.67	\$.08
Utah	4.65%	\$.245	\$.695	\$11.12 (c)	(e)	\$.08
Washington	6.5%	\$.38	\$2.03	\$19.61 (c)	\$.87	\$.26
Wyoming	4%	\$.14	\$.60	NA	(e)	

- (a) Suspended from 9/1/08 through 8/31/09
(b) Arizona has no sales tax but does have a 5.6% GRT called the transaction privilege tax
(c) State government controls all sales through a control board
(d) New Mexico has a GRT with a minimum of 5.375%, but no sales tax
(e) All wine sales are through state run stores

As consumption by out of town guests represents a significant proportion of tobacco and alcohol sales in our state, *sin taxes can be viewed progressive*, not regressive to the citizens of Nevada.

According to *State Alcohol Taxes and Health: A Citizen's Action Guide* published by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) "interest in the public health benefits of raising excise taxes has increased. Numerous studies indicate that boosting alcohol taxes can be an effective means of deterring and reducing youth alcohol use, reducing alcohol-related motor vehicle accident mortality and morbidity among young people, improving college completion rates, and ameliorating some of the other problems associated with excessive drinking, including alcohol-related violence and liver cirrhosis."

The Impact on Joe Six-Pack

At a tax rate of sixteen cents per gallon, the Nevada tax on a six-pack of beer calculates to just 9 cents. Doubling the tax on beer means Joe Six-Pack pays 18 cents per six pack or, viewed as a percent of the purchase, a three percent tax.

Alcohol taxes *may* flow into state's general fund, however, many states have utilized alcohol tax for alcohol treatment and prevention, law enforcement, alcohol research, state building construction, education, school aid and alcohol education (CSPI, 1996). California for example uses tobacco taxes to fund medical care and treatment of patients who cannot afford those services as well as programs for fire prevention, wildlife management and maintenance of parks for public recreation. In 2008, Kansas governor Kathleen Sebelius argued for a 50 cent per pack cigarette tax hike dedicated to expanding health care coverage for the underinsured. The Clark County Medical Society proposal specifies the increased taxes on alcohol and tobacco be earmarked toward higher education, healthcare careers education, health promotion and health care for Nevadans. I couldn't be more supportive of their directive.

The current tax on wine in Nevada is fifteen cents per bottle or just one percent on the purchase price of a \$15 bottle. Doubling the tax to \$1.40 per gallon would generate significant new state revenue at a cost of 30 cents per bottle or 2% of the purchase price to the consumer.

A poll conducted by the Mellman Group in 2004 revealed bipartisan support for these so called “sin taxes” on alcohol and tobacco to reduce state budget deficits, fund education, health care and law enforcement. The poll revealed that “Americans overwhelmingly support increases in state alcohol taxes” to fund programs of critical need. Furthermore, respondents favored imposing additional taxes on alcohol and tobacco products over increases in sales taxes and state income tax *or – get this – reducing social services, Medicaid or funding for higher education!*

The tax on a typical martini in Nevada is 5 cents... less than 1% of the purchase price at most fashionable Martini Bars

According to the Nevada Taxpayers Association:

In FY 2006-07 cigarette taxes in Nevada provided \$138,385,860 in tax revenue. Doubling the tax could generate a like amount to fund higher education, healthcare careers education, health promotion and health care for Nevadans.

In FY 2006-07 Nevada collected just \$43,044,469 in alcohol taxes. As demonstrated above, doubling current alcohol tax rates would have little real impact on the cost of these beverages while providing a valuable revenue stream for higher education, healthcare careers education, health promotion and health care for Nevadans.

This week’s letter outlines local, regional and national perspectives on the benefits of taxes targeting alcohol and tobacco. These taxes enjoy the support of taxpayers and legislative leaders nationwide and in many states have been applied to programs for the greater good. The above table shows that taxes on alcohol and tobacco in Nevada are relatively low compared to many states. As we move forward in the 2009 session, I hope I can count you to support the proposal by the Clark County Medical Society to impose increased taxes on alcohol and tobacco directing the revenue to higher education, healthcare careers education, health promotion and health care for our citizens.

References:

- Center for Science in the Public Interest, Alcohol Policies Project. [Internet] Available at: http://www.cspinet.org/booze/taxguide/tax_chapter_2.htm
- Nevada’s Taxpayer Association. www.nevadataxpayers.org
- State Board of Equalization, Cigarette and Tobacco Products Taxes. [Internet] Available at: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub93.pdf>
- The Marin Institute, Alcohol Policy MD.com, Health Professionals Creating Solutions to Alcohol Problems [Internet] Available at: http://www.alcoholpolicymd.com/press_room/polls/alcohol_tax_poll.htm
- The Tax Justice Digest, Cigarette Taxes: Another State Seeking the Path of Least Resistance. [Internet] Available at: <http://www.ctj.org/taxjusticedigest/2008/09/cigarette-taxes-another-state.html>
- The Tax Foundation, State Sales, Gasoline, Cigarette, and Alcohol Tax Rates by State, 2000-2009. [Internet] Available at: <http://www.taxfoundation.org/publications/show/245.html>

II FACES OF THE BUDGET CUTS

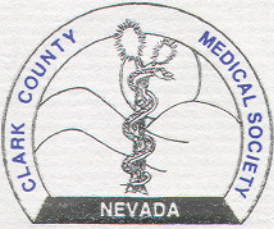
The Nevada System of Higher Education has undergone two rounds of budget cuts in less than a year and is facing the prospect of draconian cuts that threaten to destroy the futures of thousands of Nevada's citizens. Rather than share more facts and figures about the negative impacts these cuts will have on the institutions, I have enclosed brief stories from the individuals who are at the heart of higher education: faculty and students.

III FINANCIAL SCORE CARD & COMMUNITY SUPPORT LETTERS

Also enclosed, please find an updated Financial Score Card that reflects data presented in the Sin Tax proposal and community support letters for each of the eight NSHE institutions and the Health Sciences System.

Enclosures:

- Jerry Jones, MD, Clark County Medical Society
- Faces of the Budget Cuts
 - Leslie Carr Childers, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 - Jerry Browner, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 - Nicholas Blevins, University of Nevada, Reno
 - Brithany Thomson, University of Nevada, Reno
 - Brian D. Ottesen, Nevada State College
 - Velanie Williams, Nevada State College
 - Arlen W. Huggins, Desert Research Institute
 - Melanie Scott, Desert Research Institute
 - Marvinna Truss, College of Southern Nevada
 - Stephanie Lopez, College of Southern Nevada
 - Carrie Bruno, Great Basin College
 - Thomas Reagan, Great Basin College
 - Brianna, Truckee Meadows Community College
 - Christian, Truckee Meadows Community College
 - Sergio Arteaga, Western Nevada College
 - Lisa Gundrum, Western Nevada College
- Financial Score Card
- Vickie L. Wright, Nevada Hospital Association, in support of the Health Sciences System of the Nevada System of Higher Education
- Dominic Salomone, Salomone Consulting, LLC, in support of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Jim Miller, Renown Health, in support of the University of Nevada, Reno
- D.J. Allen, Imagine Marketing of Nevada, in support of Nevada State College
- Gayle Crowell in support of the Desert Research Institute
- James H. Bilbray, former U.S. Congressman, in support of the College of Southern Nevada
- Sue Vandemark, Wells Fargo, in support of Great Basin College
- Chuck Alvey, Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, in support of Truckee Meadows Community College
- Robin Williamson, Carson City, in support of Western Nevada College



Clark County Medical Society

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February 17, 2009

James E. Rogers
Chancellor Nevada System of Higher Education
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Las Vegas, NV 89103

Dear Chancellor Rogers,

The Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) shares your concerns that budget cuts, as opposed to new revenue streams supporting healthcare and healthcare education, serve to decimate programs that already struggle under the weight of underfunding. Healthcare outcomes in Nevada will only deteriorate further if funding for critical programs is cut even more.

According to the Nevada Taxpayers Association, the State of Nevada anticipates raising approximately \$110 million from cigarette and other tobacco products this year. Moreover, the state anticipates raising approximately \$40 million from the volume tax on alcohol. Considering Nevada consumes these products at higher rates than many other states, it is no wonder that our health outcomes statistics are so bleak.

During this legislative session, we have the opportunity to double these taxes and raise significantly more revenue. Further, if these taxes were earmarked for public health, healthcare professions education and development as well as health promotion/disease prevention programs, we could build a stronger health care system in Nevada and a healthier Nevada. Imagine what the Nevada System of Higher Education could do with a significant portion of an additional \$150 million in revenue from taxing these products.

To that end, the CCMS Board of Trustees agree to promote *and* support tax initiatives during the 2009 legislative session that increase taxes on tobacco for these purposes. We look forward to working with you during the session to advocate for this worthwhile initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Jones MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jerry Jones, MD
President
Clark County Medical Society

Leisl Carr Childers
Statement of Experience at University of Nevada, Las Vegas

I am a fourth year Ph.D. candidate in the History Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. After nearly a decade of teaching history at public high schools, I chose to pursue a doctoral degree in American West and Environmental history at UNLV because of the quality of faculty, availability of financial support, and unparalleled opportunities for training. Since beginning the program in 2005, I have worked with premier scholars such as the late Hal K. Rothman and David M. Wrobel, and have benefited from a variety of assistantships and fellowships available through the university to support my research. I have also engaged in innovative programs, conducted oral histories, and curated museum exhibits which have generated positive attention from regional and national organizations for the History Department and the university at large. Currently, I teach two undergraduate survey courses in United States history.

While at UNLV I met and married another history graduate student, Michael Childers. We are both graduate assistants and survive on our graduate assistantship stipends – a combined income of about \$24,000 per year – and student loans. It is a financial struggle we are willing to bear because we are both committed to using our research to make a difference in Nevada and the nation. During the first three years of my program, I worked on the Nevada Test Site Oral History Project Archive, which documents the experiences of Nevadans who worked on or were affected by the nuclear testing program, including ranchers in central Nevada. The archive received recognition by the Oral History Association and the Western History Association. This nationally recognized archive is the basis for my dissertation and is a key resource for other scholars across the country. Ideally, I will complete my doctoral program by May 2010 and pursue a career in government or teaching. This year, however, there is less financial support available for the completion of my program.

Graduate students, especially those in doctoral programs, are the backbone of every research institution and comprise one-quarter of students at UNLV. We facilitate undergraduate education by teaching lower-division survey courses. We reduce freshmen class sizes, work as assistants to faculty in other courses, and provide individualized attention to students. We also work as key research assistants on a variety of sponsored projects which bring money into the university and create national recognition. When we complete our degrees, we will help build a better future for Nevada.

But graduate student stipends have remained static for nearly a decade while tuition, fees, health insurance, and other costs have risen. Some assistantships and fellowships have disappeared altogether. The workload of graduate students has increased with higher enrollment and the pressure of an increasingly competitive job market. Without appropriate support, many graduate students are in danger of terminating their programs. Without adequate funding for graduate student programs and research, UNLV is in danger of failing as a regionally and nationally competitive undergraduate and research institution.

For all of these reasons, I would urge you to fight for funding support for graduate education and research at UNLV.

UNLV STUDENT JERRY BROWNER

Jerry Browner is a 32-year-old married father of two children, five-year-old Elizabeth and 19-month-old Steven. He works full time as a bus driver for Citizens' Area Transit in the Las Vegas Valley.

Mr. Browner is a native Las Vegan, and a total product of the Nevada education system, both K-12 and higher education. He is a 1994 graduate of El Dorado High School in Las Vegas, and as a member of the student marketing association DECA [the Distributive Education Clubs of America], he was both state champion and district champion in food marketing during his senior year.

Mr. Browner completed four associate's degrees at the College of Southern Nevada, three of them in Criminal Justice. He enrolled at UNLV last summer, and is working toward a double major in Criminal Justice and Sociology. He has been named to the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs' Dean's List, and currently carries a 3.48 grade point average. He is a member of Alpha Phi Sigma., the Criminal Justice Honor Society.

Mr. Browner starts his day at 4 a.m., working his full-time shift during the day and then going to school at night. His classes start at 7 p.m., and go to 9:30 p.m. If he is lucky and has completed his schoolwork sometime during his 20-hour day, he can go home and spend about two hours with his wife and children.

Mr. Browner is 100% dependent on student grants to fund his education, and without his Pell and University grants, he would not be able to continue his studies. He plans to graduate this coming December and is looking toward serving his country in a career in federal law enforcement, as a member of the United States Marshal Service.



University of Nevada, Reno

My story: Nicholas Blevins, Senator, Associated Students of the University of Nevada

I am a second year political science major and ethnic studies minor. I am a native Nevadan from Las Vegas, a graduate of Rancho High School, and a Hispanic, first generation, low-income college student from a single-parent household. My mother is still caring for my younger sister and my sister's six-month-old daughter on less than \$30,000 a year. Because of my background I have always known it would be a long, hard road to accomplish my dream and earn a college degree, go on to law school, become a public servant, and serve as a Nevada State Senator or Assemblyman.

At the age of five my parents divorced, and my sister and I lived in a car with my mom for a short time. We then moved to a rundown trailer park. My mom worked three jobs, but went to all our school functions. She was finally able to advance in her career and provide us with a better place to live; although we didn't always get what we wanted, we always had what we needed. She always pushed us to finish school and to pursue a higher education because she knew so many more doors would open up for us.

In high school I accomplished more than I thought possible, including graduating 8th in my class. I knew I would have to work hard and apply for financial aid to put myself through college, but I didn't mind. I actually looked forward to being able to say I did it myself. I chose to attend the University of Nevada, where I could receive a quality education for an affordable price. It has been a challenge, but I have made it this far with financial aid and by working two jobs.

You should know that there are many more like me at the University of Nevada. We could have taken the short term solution and worked three or four jobs and made a pretty good amount of money. Instead we have our eyes on the long-term goal: to improve our lives, the lives of those closest to us and our communities. In order to do so, I need a degree...*WE* need a degree.

When I heard of the Governor's proposed budget I began to worry about the future of the University and the dozens of students like me who would not be able to afford to attend anymore. Last March I was elected into the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada to seek solutions for the issues facing our University and students. All the while I have been worried about everyone else, but just recently it hit me: what is going to happen to me? If these cuts cause a drastic raise in tuition, will I be able to afford to continue my education at the University, on two jobs and financial aid? We have already seen the impact of budget cuts to important programs such as the math and writing centers. Tutoring used to be free, but now is free only for low-income students. While the cuts so far have preserved classes, the reductions in these and many other services are impacting all students either directly or indirectly, and the impact will be devastating if further cuts are made.

Drastic tuition increases would hurt more than it would help because so many people are in the same boat as me. We could take fewer classes and work three or four jobs instead of two, but that means we would stay longer and it would cost us, the University and the state more money in the long run. And many students who do take this route end up dropping out of school. That doesn't sound like a solution to me. Many students who are making sacrifices like I am are doing it willingly and proudly. Many have benefited from a quality education from a public school system, and it is my hope that those who have gone before us will help me and the many others have the same opportunity to reach our goals. When I do reach my goal, I understand I will then give back to my community and future generations.

Nicholas Blevins

Nicholas Blevins, ASUN Senator



University of Nevada, Reno

My Story – Brithany Thomson, Graduate Student Association President

When I was born in 1983, the United States was in a similar economic recession. Ronald Reagan was president, MTV was in its infancy and Atari was better known than the Internet.

I was raised in rural Gardnerville, Nevada, the youngest of five children. My parents were small business owners who did janitorial work and house cleaning. My mother always made sure we did well in school, paying close attention to our math and reading skills. We grew up poor, but my parents always managed to make ends meet. When I was younger, the church was always there when times got tough, and would help out with food and clothing when needed. My parents ended their nine year marriage when I was 10, and my mother raised us. We would visit our Dad every other weekend.

I played sports in junior high and my grades were good. I was on the Pop Warner Football team in Douglas County, the only girl among 30+ boys. I also tried my hand at boys wrestling and did fairly well. I landed a spot on the National Junior Honor Society.

I continued on the same path in high school, making the honor roll and participating in sports. At 15 I had a dream: I wanted to attend college and get a job that would pay a decent wage. I didn't want to grow up poor and stay poor. I didn't know how I would do it, my parents surely couldn't afford college for any of my older siblings, and I would be no exception. I tried hard in high school and it paid off.

The "Millennium Scholarship" came along. It allotted \$10,000 for students to go to college in Nevada (as if I would have gone anywhere else). If you qualified you would continue to receive money each year from this fund. I graduated from UNR in the spring of 2007 with my B.A. in sociology and \$257 dollars left from my Millennium Scholarship. I had a 3.50 GPA, and was accepted into the Masters program at UNR in the fall of 2007. Today, I am the graduate student body president at UNR, I still have good grades and I will have my M.A. in sociology in just a few short months.

I am the face of the low income, first generation college student, raised in a single parent household, Millennium Scholarship recipient, UNR alumnae and native Nevadan. Today my dream is to be a professor here in Nevada, hopefully at UNR. However, I am beginning to worry. Will there be a sociology program left at UNR in a few years? Will there even be a University for me to teach at? Where will my kids go to college? But more importantly, how will people like me muster up the money to pay for a college degree? How will students that are low income, first generation, who come from a single parent household get a degree? I got a chance; will others like me get one? Not if you cut funding and increase tuition for higher education here in Nevada. That will make a college degree something that most Nevadans cannot afford.

I am proud to have climbed a very tall ladder, and I am on my way to living the American Dream. Will others like me have the same opportunity? If you are shaking your head yes, then support higher education funding.

Brithany Thomson, GSA President




NEVADA STATE
COLLEGE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2009

TO: Chancellor James Rogers
Nevada System of Higher Education

FROM: President Fred Maryanski
Nevada State College 

SUBJECT: Nevada State College Student Testimonials

Earlier today, several Nevada State College students attended and were ready to testify to a joint legislative committee (Assembly Ways and Means and Senate Finance) concerning the consequences of imposing draconian budget cuts on Nevada State College and the Nevada System of Higher Education

The testimonials of two such students, Brian Ottesen, a Pre-Nursing major, and Velanie Williams, a senior majoring in Psychology, are below.

Brian D. Ottesen

- **Academic Standing:** Post Bach student with a BA in Criminology, 1991; returning for my BSN
- **Major:** Pre-Nursing
- **Family Status:** I am 40 years old, married to a 3rd grade school teacher with 2 children: Zack, 14 and Marissa, 12
- **Career Ambitions:** Become a RN and work with terminally ill children as well as volunteer for Doctors w/o Borders

I graduated from Southern Oregon State College in 1991 with a degree in Criminology and went into police work. Not only was I involved with day to day police duties, but I was also on the SWAT team and worked with undercover narcotics.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

In 1998 I went back to school and started on my MBA and my security licenses to become a financial planner. Once achieving this goal I left law enforcement and entered the corporate world only to find out that 90-hour work weeks left my family without a husband or a father. So in 2004 I moved to Las Vegas and became a fulltime outdoor guide and volunteer at my children's school.

I had always wanted to get into nursing but thought (at that time) I was too old to go back to school; then, in 2006, my life changed. At 58 yrs of age my mother was diagnosed with Glioblastoma brain cancer. Being the only child I spent the next two years caring for my mom and helping her go through the dying process. While caring for her we dealt with nurses almost on a daily basis whether it was in ICU, ER or chemo treatments. I saw some truly wonderful nurses, and I saw some horrible ones. After fighting for so hard, and so long, my mom lost her fight to this insidious disease. My mom passed away last year at her home, sitting in her recliner, listening to classic rock, with me by her side. Going through all of this gave me the push I needed to get into nursing. I decided to take the experience we had gone through and be able to help others the way the great nurses had helped us, to treat not just the patient but the family too.

So for the last year I have been going to school fulltime and getting the requirements needed to start the nursing program in August of 2009. I have been taking anatomy, physiology, chemistry, microbiology, and the list goes on. I've been diving head first into all my classes and getting A's in each one. I have put all my eggs into one basket (so to speak). My family is scraping by on my wife's teacher salary so I can get through this program and start working fulltime as a nurse to help support my family. If the nursing program is cut from NSC, I truly don't know what I will do. I will have no way to help support my family, and there are no jobs out there for me to get.

Estimates show that by 2012 our nation will have a shortfall of approximately one million nurses. If legislation cuts the nursing program from NSC, instead of being able to fill one of those one million empty positions (earning money and stimulating the economy), I will be another drain on our society and the economy. I will be unemployed, uninsured, will lose my house, and will only help our nation fall further into financial decline.

Velanie Williams

- **Academic Standing:** Senior (1st semester)
- **Major:** Psychology with a minor in Sociology
- **Family Status:** I am a first generation college student. My mother works as a meat cutter at a grocery store and my father is an EVS manager at Planet Hollywood. My sister is older than me, but has never attended college. My little brother is in the ninth grade.
- **Career Ambitions:** Clinical Psychologist

When I graduate, I wish to immerse myself in the field of psychology by becoming a clinical psychologist. I believe that some people need help working through the different

problems that may arise in life. I am now looking at different graduate schools so that I can continue my education and pursue my goal. My main goal is to be able to bring my skills back to Nevada after graduate school so that I can contribute to the mental health care field in my own home.

If the budget cuts result in me losing the opportunity to earn my bachelor's degree, I'd be devastated. Without my bachelor's degree, there is no way I'd be able to pursue my ultimate goal of being a clinical psychologist. One of the most detrimental results would be the effect it would have on my family. I aim to take care of my family, but I'd also like to set an example for them. I want them as well as others to know that they can get an education and succeed if they put in the effort. My younger brother is very impressionable right now, and I don't want him to have the wrong idea about education and its importance. Needless to say, the impact of losing this opportunity would not only affect me but everyone that looks to me as an example.



February 26, 2009

James E. Rogers
Chancellor
Nevada System of Higher Education
5550 West Flamingo Road, Suite C-1
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Dear Chancellor Rogers:

I am writing you about potential state budget cuts to DRI's Cloud Seeding Program.

The DRI cloud seeding program has received state support for about 30 years, with the current program receiving continuous support for 25 consecutive years. The program applies cloud seeding technology to augment snowfall in five mountainous regions of northern Nevada, and began equipment enhancements to projects in the Upper Colorado River Basin in 2007. With demands for water increasing in the West as supply declines due to extended drought periods, the overall goal of the program is to provide one relatively inexpensive means of increasing water supplies in the seeded basins. The program employs three full time technical staff with 10 – 24 years of experience at DRI, one half-time manager with 21 years experience at DRI, one hourly programmer with 30-plus years experience at DRI, and one master's level graduate student.

A complete elimination of the Cloud Seeding Program budget would mean the loss of snow water increases from cloud seeding (estimated from past seasons) in the seeded basins of Nevada by thousands of acre-feet in the smaller project areas to tens of thousands of acre-feet in the larger areas like the Tahoe-Truckee Basin and the Walker Basin. The budget reduction would very likely mean the loss of all DRI technical staff and the one faculty member currently funded by the project. Continued funding for the graduate student is uncertain and would depend on another funded project picking him up. Elimination of the program would also hinder DRI faculty efforts to obtain new research funding in this field, since many past research efforts by DRI have made use of in-kind cost share using the state program funding and infrastructure. These "piggy-back" research programs have amounted to millions in research revenue, with the scientific results being of great benefit to the ongoing operational project. The future of more than a million dollars of project infrastructure is also uncertain, since DRI would be losing the staff whose unique skills are needed to maintain and repair it.

Thank you for your support in preserving this vital program, which has impacts that go far beyond our campus and impacts the quality of life in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arlen W. Huggins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "H".

Arlen W. Huggins



February 26, 2009

James E. Rogers
Chancellor
Nevada System of Higher Education
5550 West Flamingo Road, Suite C-1
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Dear Chancellor Rogers:

I take great pride in being a resource for the 182 research faculty at DRI as its librarian for the two main campuses in Reno and Las Vegas. While the state supports the salaries of fewer than two of these positions, the libraries the state does support is a key resource for the faculty's support.

The DRI library, both in Reno and Las Vegas, has been a well-managed source of research efficiency for many years. It provides a service to our faculty members that allows them to focus on the research at hand rather than spend grossly inefficient time searching for documents, photocopying or scanning relevant information, and other time-consuming tasks.

Moreover, each library bears the name of people who are recognized for their support for DRI (Patrick Squires in Reno and Aileen and Sulo Maki in Las Vegas). Therefore, elimination of library support also would be a diminution of their recognition by DRI.

Thank you for your support of an important resource at DRI.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "M" and "S".

Melanie Scott
Director of DRI Libraries

February 27, 2009

TO: Dr. Michael Richards, President, CSN
 FROM: Marvinna Truss
 RE: Impact of Current and Future Budget Reductions

My name is Marvinna Truss and I am a College of Southern Nevada student with two options. Option A, with a college degree I will be able to get off of welfare. Option B, without one I will not. I took my first college course at CSN in 2005 and I am almost through the window of opportunity promised by higher education. Yet I feel an eminent threat that this same window of opportunity will be replaced by an impenetrable wall of stagnation. I am also a recovering addict who has been clean for 25 years. I have worked diligently towards realizing a lifelong dream of becoming a professional in the field of Addiction Studies. I have been working with recovering addicts for 25 years mentoring them with a raw knowledge and experience gained from the streets. However, I desire a highly developed and effective background in Addiction Studies. This is how CSN has been preparing me to meet the demands of a new age.

Addiction Studies was formerly a 2 year degree program at CSN but has been changed to a 4 year undergraduate degree which I can only complete through transfer to UNLV. My dream is renewed with every course I successfully complete. But what happens when the required course is cancelled due to budget reductions? This semester alone I have met an overwhelming amount of my CSN peers who needed one class to complete their requirements for transfer or graduation to only have that class cancelled. Do you know what one semester or one class can mean to a student, a single parent, or to an individual who is unemployed? Let's not forget, one semester is 4 months. If that class happens to be a pre-requisite to the required class, one semester could mean an entire academic year. Serious efforts have been made to increase student retention, persistence, and graduation rates; however budget reductions have already begun to negatively impact these efforts. One class cancelled, one less graduate, one less transfer, one less student retained. Multiply that by 41, 000 CSN students. How does this help to prepare us for the demands of a new age?

I currently have a 3.4 GPA which is made possible not only by my efforts but because of the support of CSN's Tutors, Counselors/Advisors, Retention services, Student Financial Services, TRIO Student Support Services, and Instructors-full-time and adjunct. It has become increasingly more difficult to receive the same level of assistance due to the growing student population and inadequate support staff and faculty. Tutorial Services is unable to provide tutors for the amount of student requests especially in math and science. It has become more difficult to meet with professors because more students are relying heavily on instructor assistance due to tutor shortage. I have taken classes at each campus and have felt the consequence of a bare bones student services. For example, in 07-08 the Student to Counselor/Advisor ratio at the Cheyenne campus was 1,452 students for every 1 Counselor/Advisor; Charleston 1, 855 students for every 1 Counselor/Advisor; and Henderson 2,473 students for every 1 Counselor/Advisor. Many students are blindly leading themselves by self advising due to this ridiculously low advisor to student ratio. The way I see it, this is setting many students up for failure from the start because time and money are being wasted by taking random courses, accumulating random credits, and working towards no specific academic goal. Not by choice, but by default. Yet our student population continues to grow but critical student support services do not.

My peers and I should not be forced to attend proprietary schools to complete our education. We simply can't afford to take on the amount of debt such a decision will create. CSN, its degree programs, student support services, faculty and staff is crucial to every type of student and their personal, academic, and professional development. With thousands of people losing their jobs CSN provides an opportunity to retrain for another career, learn new skills to work toward a promotion, obtain the first two years of an undergraduate degree, or complete specialized training in a variety of career fields. If it weren't for CSN I would not be writing to you today. CSN has, is, and will hopefully continue to change lives one course at a time. However, budget reductions will not contribute to an increase in opportunity, but it will contribute to an increase in dreams deferred and destroyed. I do not want to continue to be a welfare recipient and education affords the opportunity for me to change that. CSN provides the foundation I need to be a productive citizen who can one day re-invest in the people, the state, and country that has invested in me.

Thank you

memo

To: Dr. Michael Richards, CSN President
From: Stephanie Lopez
Date: 2/27/2009
Re: Budget Cuts

As a concerned student at the College of Southern Nevada—a first generation student, who has a dream of being the first in my family to obtain a college degree, to set an example for my siblings, someone who relies on my education to get me a job which will make me a more productive citizen, I have concerns about the current budget cuts to the State of Nevada, especially in the area of Higher Education.

Over the past year as the budget at CSN has been cut, I have noticed substantial changes in my college environment. I rely on my work-study job to provide me with some extra money while I take classes at the college. Last semester I was allowed to put in 25 hours a week. This spring semester that has been declined to 15 hours a week.

In the fall, I had a decent schedule with a variety of classes I could choose from; this spring semester I have seen that decent schedule become very erratic due to the options of classes declining. In the fall, I had my classes on Mon.-Thurs. and only had to be on campus for four hours. Now that spring has arrived, my class are so spread apart that I am spending so much time on campus, I find it hard to spend time with my family and find time for myself.

Along with class options, the number of students in classes is crazy. My classes are so full that during the beginning of the spring semester some students did not even have a chair! It's so sad that there are such a limited number of classes available. Students beg to get into classes which are full. Another area of concern is that of tutorial services. As a student who struggles in math, I rely on tutorial services to provide me with the tools needed to succeed. In the fall, I was able to get tutoring assistance on Fridays after 1pm and on Saturdays, because I worked and attended classes during the week. Spring approached and tutorial services had to cut their hours drastically only being open till 1pm and completely not having any tutoring on Saturdays. The Library has also cut their hours, which hinders my research in many of the classes that require such.

If feel that if the state legislature were forced to have CSN cut their budgets more, my dream of obtaining a degree would be in great jeopardy. I cannot afford for our tuition to be raised due to cuts. I cannot afford there to be no assistance for me to succeed. I cannot afford to have my right to obtain a higher education degree be out of reach. A cut to higher education is a cut to my dream.



February 27, 2009

To: Chancellor Jim Rogers

From: Carrie Bruno
Earth/Physical Sciences Instructor
Co-Chair of the Science Department

Re: Budget Implications

My name is Carrie Bruno and I am the co-chair of the Great Basin College (GBC) Science Department. I am the only full-time earth sciences instructor at GBC and I am untenured. If my position is eliminated due to budget cuts, students in rural Nevada, (an area rich in gold and other natural resources), will be without a geology instructor.

Most people associate their job with the word '*work*'. Before I accepted my position at Great Basin College, I had lucrative career, but I went to '*work*' everyday. My job wasn't rewarding and I didn't think I was making a difference.

At GBC, the science department is making a difference – a BIG difference. Everyday, students leave my classroom with a greater appreciation for the world around them. Students in Dr. David Friestroffer's and Dr. Gregory Schmaltz's courses learn the fundamentals of biology in preparation for careers in the health sciences and education. Ms. Tracy Shane, our only agriculture instructor, inspires future resource and range managers. All of these instructors, including myself, are untenured. If budget cuts are severe, GBC could lose 50% of the Science faculty.

I love GBC and my career, but, like many of my fellow untenured instructors, I am worried. Losing my job could result in extreme economic hardship. Just to be safe, I've updated my resume and asked for letters of reference. I'm applying for other jobs.

As many of you know, it takes an adventurous person to move to remote Elko. I'm afraid, if our positions are eliminated it will take years for GBC to recover, (just like every institution in NSHE), and years to recruit enthusiastic, qualified instructors.

All of us in the science department want to stay at GBC because we recognize the importance of educating the rural west.



Memorandum

To: Chancellor James Rogers
From: Thomas Reagan, Great Basin College Teacher Education Secondary Program Supervisor
Date: 3/2/2009
Re: Statement to Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Subcommittees

We do not have a teacher shortage problem in the U.S. We have a teacher retention and distribution problem. Great Basin College's Teacher Education Program is addressing these issues for rural Nevada. The number one factor in a student's choice of schools, especially in the professional areas of teaching and nursing, is proximity. We service the six counties of Lander, Humboldt, Eureka, Elko, White Pine, and Nye through extensive use of interactive video. In other words, we take a 62,000 square mile swath of Nevada and turn it into a community campus.

One of the better ways to retain teachers is to train them in a similar context as they will see when they enter the profession. Through close collaboration with the school districts we are able to provide community members with the skills necessary to be long-lasting contributors to their local schools. I left my high-seniority teaching position with Elko County School District two years ago so that I could be part of the solution of increasing the pool of highly qualified teachers in my town and my state.

The secondary program at GBC is in its third year. It is steadily filling with students who admit they would not be able to enter the profession without this program. They include a former bank manager who will be teaching business, a long time volunteer and substitute who is teaching math, a single mother of two who is teaching English, the former head of the local Boys and Girls Club who will be teaching social studies, a highly respected drama coach in Ely who can now teach science, and a retired serviceman in Pahrump who will teach math.

I appreciate the magnitude of the decisions the legislature must make this session. Economic downturn can provide opportunities to assess, plan, and make more efficient public systems. Trimming the fat is a healthy process. The symbolic gesture, however, of 36% cuts system wide sends the message that higher education has become bloated and obese. History shows that as unemployment rates go up so too does higher education enrollment. Let's not jeopardize this opportunity to help reshape the workforce.

With the exception of Senator Rhoads, each of the members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee has at least one degree from a Nevada institution. I am concerned how the quality of the service to our state will change if we do not continue to develop the opportunities for our future leaders.



February 27, 2009

The following transcribed statements are from interviews with TMCC students regarding potential reductions in higher education funding. Videos may be watched at <http://tmcc.edu/crisis/video/>

Brianna, TMCC Nursing Student

Question: What would it mean to you if your program were cut and where would you go?

Answer: That would be a very difficult thing for me to handle right now. It's a major program here in the college and the state of Nevada needs nurses so badly and it would be a real deficit to the state if they were to cut this program. Where would I go? I don't know... any other college that would take me. This is an extremely important thing for me to do, it's a way for me to give back to the state and if they cut this program or if they keep increasing tuition I won't be able to afford to go here anymore and I'd have to give up my dream.

Christian, TMCC Business Student

Question: Can you tell us why you chose TMCC?

Answer: TMCC is really good because of the small class sizes. So I get to interact with the professors and that's a lot more than I get with/when I go to UNR.

Question: Can you tell us what the proposed budget cuts would mean to you?

Answer: I would hate to see the business studies program go away because the budget cuts are affecting us. And I just have seen a lot of classes that have been increased in size so you have a lot more students per classroom and that's pretty bad. It's kind of taking that away, that small class size.

Question: What about tutoring and other services – have you used those in the past?

Answer: All the time, especially the tutoring and learning center. I use the math department all the time because I need a lot of help with that.

Question: How would you feel if those services were no longer available?

Answer: Bad because it's expensive to get good tutoring.



Western Nevada College

Carson City • Douglas • Fallon • Fernley • Hawthorne • Lovelock • Smith • Yerington

The Right Choice

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Kuhlman, NSHE Manager of Public Information

FROM: Carol A. Lucey, WNC President

SUBJECT: Budget hearing testimonials

DATE: February 27, 2009

Attached please find testimonials from Sergio Arteaga and Lisa Gundrum, students of Western Nevada College, expressing concern about the proposed budget cuts.

CAL:bb

Attachments

Visit us online at www.wnc.edu

2201 West College Parkway • Carson City, Nevada • 89703-7399 • 775-445-4450 • FAX 775-445-3127

WNC - An Institution of the Nevada System of Higher Education

Sergio Arteaga

Statement:

“Hello my name is Sergio Arteaga. I am a Pre-Nursing student at Western Nevada College. I am the first generation in my family to attend college. I came all the way from Lovelock to achieve my dream to become a nurse. It’s such an incredible opportunity for me to be in college. I truly thank the Outreach department for going all the way to Lovelock to encourage us to become students at WNC. However, I want to express my concerns with the budget cuts to higher education. In my case, my parents are over the age of 60. My dad was laid off from work because of the economic crisis we are facing. At this moment, I support myself financially. If these budget cuts take place, I don’t see me or other students in my situation achieving our dreams and succeeding in life. Instead, many of us are going to pack our dreams and go back where we started. Many of us barely make it through college with today’s tuition fees. Needless to say, it’s going to make it impossible to afford college with the proposed budget cuts. Don’t you agree that if the college raises its tuition that it will reduce enrollment at the colleges and universities? This will mean that Nevada citizens will not be able to afford an education and as a result, they will not be able to contribute to improve our state and country.

I really want to achieve my goal of becoming a nurse and make a positive difference in our community. Our state and country needs educated citizens! Please don’t make it impossible for us!”

Lisa Gundrum

Statement:

For the record, my name is Lisa Gundrum. I am a second year nursing student here to represent the nursing program at Western Nevada College and am a 29 year resident of the area.

I am proud to call Nevada my home not only because of the recreational activities it affords, but the diversity of community resources that it has provided for me and my family throughout the years. I am most proud though of the opportunities that Western Nevada College has afforded me.

When I started researching nursing schools throughout Nevada, it became apparent to me that Western Nevada College ranked far superior to myself and my classmates not only because it ranks the highest in pass rates for the NCLEX exam, has affordable tuition rates and lab fees, but also because we have a level of expertise and education in our instructors that is comparable to most major universities.

Therefore, I would like to express my disappointment in the proposed budget cuts and tuition and fees increases set forth by Governor Gibbons. It is an absolute detriment to our community and to our citizens that Western Nevada College is being slated for staggering budget cuts and possibly the elimination of our nursing program that continually serves the community's healthcare needs. Our community's healthcare system is strained in itself with the looming economic crisis and with a large group of retiring local doctors and nurses in the very near future; we are faced with a serious issue of healthcare needs in our community. If we are not able to graduate nurses here locally and to replenish the retiring professionals, people will be forced to seek medical care in already saturated hospitals as far away as Reno and Las Vegas.

It is imperative and crucial at this very moment that you support and maintain the integrity and survival of our local nursing program and its instructors. Without highly educated nurses, we are going to be faced with a frightful decline in healthcare that not only affects me and my family, but yours as well. We will be faced with a medical crisis meltdown that will never recover if the proposed budget cuts at Western Nevada College are instituted. Our community is growing sicker, and without the proper nursing care that we so desperately need, this community will become more sparse than it already is from past budget cuts.

I therefore ask with the utmost respect that you reconsider your decision on these proposed budget cuts for my local college. A college that I am very proud of... a college that is filled with hope and eagerness to serve this community. Please honor the fine nursing instructors and students that have been attracted to this community that we call home. Without the hard work of our instructors who continually educate themselves and without us as your local nurses, I am afraid of what the future of our home will be. We will not let you down in our perseverance to treat you or your families with respect and kindness each and every time you need us.

Thank you for allowing me to be here today. I appreciate your consideration in this very serious matter.

A)
Financial Score Card
 (updated March 3, 2009)

State of Nevada Revenue Shortfall	2008-2009	\$	1,500,000,000	1
	2009-2011	\$	<u>3,000,000,000</u>	
		\$	4,500,000,000	

Nevada System of Higher Education Revenue Shortfall	2008-2009	\$	164,000,000	2
	2009-2011	\$	<u>600,000,000</u>	3
		\$	764,000,000	

Potential Sources of Funds (all amounts estimated and indicated "up to"):

		<u>System's Share of Funds</u>	4	<u>Revenue Sources for State</u>
1	Tobacco Money	\$	120,000,000	\$ 600,000,000
2	Tuition Increases	\$	50,000,000	\$ 50,000,000
3	Reduce Abatements	\$	250,000,000	\$ 1,300,000,000
4	Local Support of Community Colleges	\$	100,000,000	\$ 100,000,000
5	Use State's Bonding Capacity	\$	140,000,000	\$ 700,000,000
6	Mining Industry Taxes	\$	30,000,000	5 \$ 150,000,000
7	Broad-based Business Income (profit) Tax	\$	200,000,000	\$ 1,000,000,000
8	Grant from the Federal Government	\$	600,000,000	\$ 3,000,000,000
9	Savings from Support of Private Schools	\$	50,000,000	\$ 50,000,000
10	Use of Nevada Permanent School Fund	\$	110,000,000	6 \$ 275,000,000
11	Contributions & Grants from Nevada Test Site	\$	20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000
12	Lottery	\$	20,000,000	\$ 100,000,000
13	State Matching Funds Programs (based on Wyoming model)	\$	250,000,000	\$ 250,000,000
14	Senator Harry Reid's Federal Stimulus Bill	\$	-	\$ 900,000,000
15	Senator Bob Coffin "Bridge Plan" to temporarily raise the sales tax rate to a level that covers the shortfall for this biennium.	\$	460,000,000	\$ 2,300,000,000
16	Private Use of Public Facilities	\$	10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
17	NSHE's Shovel-Ready Projects (Stimulus Bill)	\$	100,000,000	\$ 100,000,000
18	Slot Route Tax	\$	10,000,000	\$ 50,000,000
19	In-Casino Powerball Sales	\$	20,000,000	\$ 100,000,000
20	Progressive Leadership Alliance Tax Plan	\$	260,000,000	\$ 1,300,000,000
21	Doubling Cigarette Tax	\$	138,385,860	\$ 138,385,860
22	Doubling Alcohol Tax	\$	43,044,469	\$ 43,044,469
	Total:	\$	2,981,430,329	\$ 12,536,430,329

Notes:

- 1 *Estimated revenue shortfall from Legislative approved 2009 budget, including amounts taken and currently under discussion.*
- 2 *Includes approximately \$94 million in cuts already taken plus 20% of revenue shortfall under discussion.*
- 3 *NSHE's share of budget and shortfalls is approximately 20%. Assumes pro rata distribution of all cuts.*
- 4 *System's "share" calculated at 20% except for tuition and fee increases and local support for colleges.*
- 5 *May be included as part of broad-based business tax.*
- 6 *Allocated 60% to K-12 and 40% to System.*

B)
Savings Through Greater "Efficiency & Effectiveness"

Potential Sources of Funds (all amounts estimated and indicated "up to"):

		<u>System's Share of Savings</u>	Savings for State	
1	SAGE Commission Recommendations	\$	103,134,000	\$ 515,670,000
	Total:	\$	103,134,000	\$ 515,670,000

Notes:

- 1 *Nevada Sage Commission, 90-Day Report to the Governor, September 30, 2008, using five-year savings/enhanced revenue estimates.*

C)**Previews of Coming Attractions (Revenue)**

In the coming weeks, these memos will explore many different ideas to raise needed revenue for this state. Included in the list will be:

- 1 Health Sciences Stimulus Package
- 2 Tax on Services
- 3 Bonding Authority – A List of How It Works
- 4 Business License Fees
- 5 Corporate Filing Fees
- 6 Federal Matching Funds on Current Budget Items
- 7 Split-Roll Property Tax – Taxing Commercial Property at a Different Rate Than Residential Property
- 8 Commercial Lease Tax
- 9 Examination of Existing Tax Rates:
 - Car Rental
 - Live Entertainment
 - Impact Fees
 - Drivers License Fees
 - Gas Tax
 - Government Service Tax
 - Gaming Tax
 - Insurance Premium Tax
 - Jet Fuel
 - Modified Business Tax
 - Pipeline Fuel
 - Property Tax
 - Real Property Transfer Tax
 - Room Tax
 - Sales and Use Tax

D)**Previews of Coming Attractions (Savings)**

In the coming weeks, these memos will explore many different ideas to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of state government. Included in the list will be:

- 1 Prison & Sentencing Reform
- 2 PEBS Reform
- 3 PERS Reform
- 4 Improving Bond Ratings
- 5 Increasing Facilities Savings
- 6 Improved Billing Practices at the Division of Mental Health



5250 Neil Road, Suite 302 ▪ Reno, NV 89502
(775) 827-0184 ▪ FAX (775) 827-0190

February 25, 2009

Chancellor Jim Rogers
Nevada System of Higher Education
5550 W. Flamingo Road
Suite C-1
Las Vegas Nevada, 89103

Dear Chancellor Rogers,

I am writing in on behalf of Nevada Hospital Association in support of Nevada System of Higher Education Health Sciences System and its health care initiatives. The Health Sciences Division has taken the initiative to support the Nursing Education Capacity Summit, therefore addressing the needs of the nursing workforce in Nevada and ultimately the citizens of Nevada.

As you are probably aware Nevada has a nursing workforce of 572 nurses per 100,000 population per Kaiser State Health Facts. Many nurses trained in Nevada face hiring barriers with the lack of trained preceptors and mentors. With Nevada nursing schools turning out only about 20% of the nurses we need it is imperative that Nevada not only turn out the amount of nurses needed but a quality workforce.

Nevada Hospital Association whole heartedly believes that NSHE Health Sciences System can accomplish it's goals of bringing together a collaborative stakeholders within the state while supporting Nevada's hospitals endeavor to retain all stimulus monies allotted to the Medicaid program.

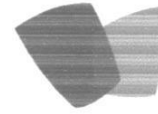
I believe that the undertaking of the NSHE Health Sciences System can work with all stakeholders in Nevada to accomplish this task.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 775-827-0184.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vickie L. Wright".

Vickie L. Wright MSN MBA RN
Nurse Executive
Nevada Hospital Association



Salomone Consulting, LLC

February 26, 2009

Dr. David B. Ashley
President
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Box 45001
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-1001

Dear Dr. Ashley:

I am writing to you to share my thoughts on the proposed budget cuts to higher education connected to the fiscal crisis in Nevada. I am concerned that they would do irreparable damage to one of the best assets of Las Vegas and Southern Nevada.

UNLV is important to the community on many levels—education, athletics, culture. My family, friends and I have enjoyed everything UNLV has to offer over the years. It is a gathering place for the activities that matter so much to a community. First and foremost, we need an institution like UNLV to educate our children to supply a talented workforce for business and industry in Nevada and beyond, and also to afford them the opportunity to reach their full creative and intellectual potentials.

Research that is important to all of us is carried on at the university on a continual basis including such quality of life issues as renewable energy, water conservation, and nutrition to keep our children healthy.

UNLV is the core of our community; and, if these cuts happen, we will be losing part of ourselves. It is the glue that holds our community together. We all stand to lose very much that is good about Southern Nevada if the university is torn apart with these cuts.

Sincerely,

Dominic Salomone
President
Salomone Consulting, LLC

279 New River Circle
Henderson, Nevada 89052
(702) 596-0037
(800) 674-3134 fax
Dsalom1059@aol.com



Renown Health
1155 Mill Street
Reno, NV 89502-1474

P 775.982.5529
www.renown.org

James I. Miller
President & Chief Executive Officer

February 25, 2009

Assembly Ways and Means Committee Members
Senate Finance Committee Members

Dear Committee Members:

Renown Health supports both adequate funding to Medicaid for healthcare (providers and hospitals) along with adequate funding for education programs within the Nevada System of Higher Education for healthcare professions – especially programs for nurses and physicians.

As a safety net provider for our community, we believe it is critical to adequately fund care that is provided to Medicaid patients with rates that more closely approximate the cost of care and to at least maintain (and expand if possible) the education for healthcare professionals, that are at a shortage in our State. As a result of Nevada's growing and aging population, now more than ever our ability to provide access to healthcare is being challenged.

Given the difficult economic times, we know that you are faced with many difficult decisions when it comes to Nevada's State Budget. Please consider with high priority the adequate funding of both the Medicaid Program (including restoring the cuts and sweep of IAF funds done during the 24th Special Session and planned in the Governors Recommended Budget) and Nevada System of Higher Education for training of healthcare professionals while being careful not to take from either to fund the other. Both are critical to meeting the current and future healthcare needs of Nevada's citizens. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 775-982-5529.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Miller



IMAGINE
MARKETING OF NEVADA

March 2, 2009

Mr. James E. Rogers
Chancellor
Nevada System of Higher Education
5500 W. Flamingo Road, Ste. C-1
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Dear Chancellor Rogers,

Thank you for your weekly memos regarding the Nevada System of Higher Education. I have found them to be informative, especially as it relates to the ongoing budget debate taking place now in Carson City.

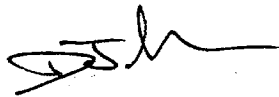
I, like you, am a longtime supporter of the Nevada System of Higher Education and, in particular, of Nevada State College.

As you know, Nevada State College is quickly meeting the educational needs of many Nevada students. Since its opening in 2002, Nevada State has graduated hundreds of qualified and committed teachers, nurses, and other professionals in high-demand fields. Nevada State College is a viable addition to the Nevada System of Higher Education's three-tiered approach (universities, state colleges, and community colleges) to creating an educated and prosperous workforce.

My hope is that this legislative session marks a turning point for Nevada. Rather than base higher education's budget on what is minimally required by state law (with some framing the discussion by arguing that higher education is not a "constitutionally mandated service"), let's base its budget on what is minimally required to stay economically competitive as a state in an increasingly global society.

It is time for us to be bold. Now is the time to make education a priority.

Sincerely,



D.J. Allen
Imagine Marketing of Nevada

P 702.837.8996
F 702.896.4672

11500 S. Eastern Ave.
Suite 250
Henderson, NV 89052

www.imnv.com

February 23, 2009

James E. Rogers
Chancellor
5550 West Flamingo Road, Suite C-1
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Dear Chancellor Rogers:

Nevada gets so much bang for its buck from DRI that in better times we would be trying to figure out how to give more to the institute rather than face down budget cuts.

Our state receives a four-to-one return on investment from DRI. Over a recent eight-year period, DRI received \$60 million in state support and in return, produced \$227 million in funded grants and contracts. DRI receives just 1.2 percent of the Nevada System of Higher Education budget. To view that a different way, the state funds one-plus FTE of DRI's 182 advanced degree research faculty. Most of that funding goes to the cloud seeding program, which is in jeopardy.

Out of 500 employees at DRI, the state funds 63 FTE. As DRI is set to celebrate its 50th birthday this year, the legislature envisioned a soft-money entrepreneurial branch of the university system that would attract research, create skilled jobs and enhance the state's economy. Just think what DRI could do with a little more funding.

Thank you for your efforts to preserve funding for DRI and all of higher education in Nevada.

Sincerely,

Gayle Crowell

Gayle Crowell
2630 Vitoria Court
Reno, NV 89521



James H. Bilbray

Nevada State Senate (1981-1985)
U.S. Congress (1987-1995)
U.S. Security Policy Advisory Committee (2000-2001)
Advisory Board of the Export Import Bank (1995-1999)
Board of Visitors USAF Academy (1990-1992)
Board of Visitors USMA (1985-1999)
University of Nevada Board of Regents (1968-1973)
North Atlantic Assembly (NATO) (1989-1995)
Member 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC)
Member California-Nevada High Speed Train Commission
Member Board of Governors United States Postal Service

February 13, 2009

James Rogers

Chancellor University of Nevada System

Dear Jim,

By now almost everybody in the state should be aware of the dire shape of the university of Nevada systems budget. Having reviewed so much of what is going on and as a former regent I can tell you that the hit to all the schools is terrible but the budget for CSN is even worse than the rest of the system. With the economic downturn more and more students will be heading for the community colleges because of the lower costs. Over the years we have encouraged businesses to relocate to southern Nevada but with the condition of our schools both K to 12 and the colleges if I was in charge of relocation I certainly would look to other states where I can hire a well skilled work force plus provide a good education to my employees and there families. Jim keep up the fight don't give an inch to those who keep our education and state down.

Sincerely,

James H. Bilbray

The Wells Fargo logo consists of the words "WELLS" and "FARGO" stacked vertically in a yellow, sans-serif font, set against a red square background.

MAC 54664-011
1000 Broyles Ranch Road
Battle Mountain, NV 89820
775 635-5446
775 635-5453 Fax

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

February 2, 2009

Jim Rogers
Chancellor
The Nevada System of Higher Education
5550 West Flamingo Rd, Suite C1
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Dear Chancellor

I have closely observed the conversations your memos regarding cuts to funding to support Nevada System of Higher Education have created throughout the state. I share your concern that funding reductions to education will be difficult for Nevada to bear. It is of particular concern to me because of the value of Great Basin College to our community and to the business I conduct in rural Nevada.

I have been engaged in the financial services business here in Battle Mountain since 1999. I serve a wide demographic in Battle Mountain, providing quality financial advice and services to consumers who lead an active, outdoor lifestyle. The economy of Battle Mountain has its ups and downs, but with careful management, I have been successful through both easy and hard times. I have watched Great Basin College do the same.

Like my own business, GBC serves a wide portion of the population. They provide quality technical training for the mining industry, and excellent instruction in academic programs that lead to bachelor and professional degrees. Important to me and to my employees are the many continuing education programs GBC provides. Classes in marketing, business and computer operations are just a few to the programs that help me to run my business better.

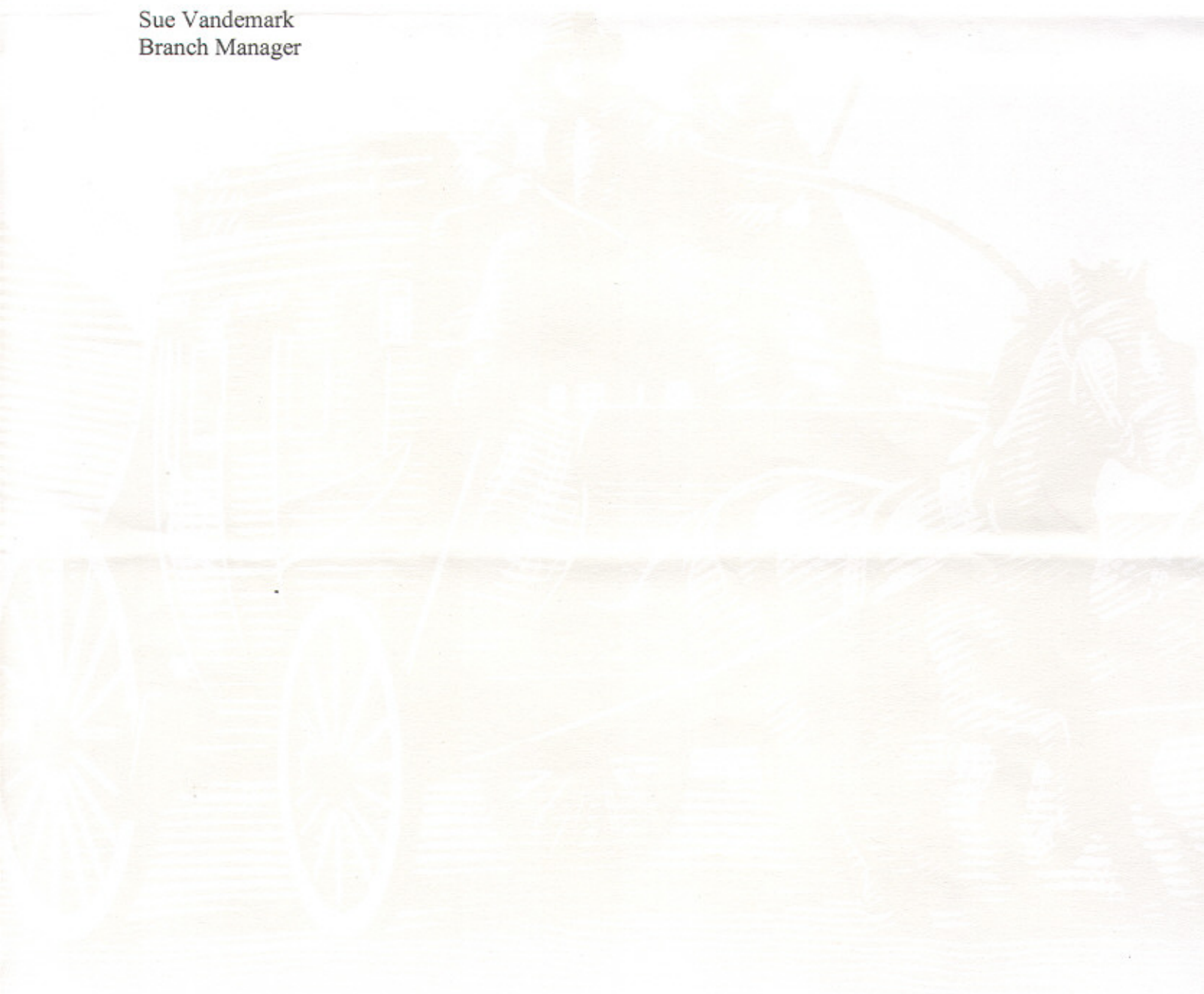
But the college makes a significant contribution to the local economy as well. Dollars spent by students, professors and staff of Great Basin College turn over time and time again at retail and service operations throughout the community. The college not only provides the community with the intellectual and occupational tools to be successful, it also provides a significant amount of the capital to keep the entire Battle Mountain economy afloat.

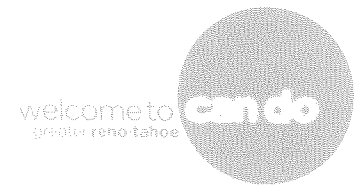
The effects of the presence of Great Basin College are felt deeply throughout our town. When its support is weakened, the entire community can falter. Great Basin College and higher education are vital threads in the fabric that is rural Nevada. I join you in your strong support of higher education for rural Nevadans.

Sincerely



Sue Vandemark
Branch Manager





January 16, 2009

Dr. Maria Sheehan
 President
 Truckee Meadows Community College
 7000 Dandini Boulevard
 RDMT200
 Reno, NV 89512

Dear Dr. Sheehan,

EDAWN is pleased to support the efforts of Truckee Meadows Community College in program development that meets the needs of industry in our community. As a partner with TMCC and higher education in Greater Reno-Tahoe, we support TMCC's manufacturing degree program and your efforts to develop a program to train technicians for the renewable energy industry in this region.

EDAWN published a strategic regional economic plan, *Target2010: Northern Nevada's New Economy*, which identifies the clean energy field as one of the six industries targeted for growth in the region. Renewable energy development increases energy and natural resource efficiency while reducing the environmental impact of further development. Renewable technologies reduce the energy needs of companies and reduce dependence on foreign sources of energy. Additional benefits of these technologies are improved environmental quality, better quality of life, high paying, skilled job opportunities and long-term economic growth.

We believe that a highly trained workforce is critical to the advancement of the industry in Nevada and in Greater Reno-Tahoe. Today economic development is increasingly reliant on a steady supply of skilled workers. Companies making site location or expansion decisions want to know about the existing pool of potential workers and the responsiveness of higher education training providers. TMCC is addressing the needs of industry by training workers in the latest technology, systems and approaches to address the growing and evolving needs of many sectors including manufacturing and renewable energy.

Successful economic development goes hand-in-hand with higher education and workforce development. On behalf of EDAWN and our board of directors, I commend TMCC on advancing our region's competitive advantage by providing the critical education and training needed to cultivate a skilled local workforce.

Sincerely,

Chuck Alvey
 President/CEO
 EDAWN



CARSON CITY, NEVADA
CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITAL

February 3, 2009

Chancellor James Rogers
NSHE
5550 W. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Dear Chancellor Rogers,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to express my dismay at the proposed budget cuts for both K-12 education and the Nevada Higher Education System.

There is a saying that "You get what you pay for." But I believe in another sentiment that "You don't get what you don't pay for." If Nevada elected officials want a better educational system in this state to serve both our current and future residents, then they have to find a way to pay for better education.

In these times of constrained budgets and bleak economic forecasts, our elected officials need to build budgets that reflect their priorities for our state. For higher education systems, this is an opportunity to retrain displaced workers, keep our students in schools and offer opportunities to continue educational aspirations. When our residents need education the most, it is not the time to cut classes, reduce extracurricular activities, and layoff education instructors.

Please count me on the side of education in Nevada at all levels.

Best wishes,



Robin Williamson
Carson City Ward 1 Supervisor
Western Nevada College Foundation Member
3752 Meadow Wood Road
Carson City, NV 89703