

**Nevada System of Higher Education**  
**Melody Rose Ph.D., Chancellor**

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November 17, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

During my first few months on the job as NSHE's chancellor I have had the privilege of meeting hundreds of NSHE's students, faculty and staff, I've visited NSHE's degree granting institutions, and I've had inspiring conversations with many policymakers and community members.

Through those meetings, some in-person but most virtual, one thing is crystal-clear: NSHE's mission to educate and train our more than 100,000 students is the North Star of everything we do.

Across our state, I have seen the same passion and focus to grow student access and success, to close the achievement gap among critical student populations, continue to provide a highly skilled workforce to meet the needs of Nevada's businesses and industry, and to conduct high-quality, impactful research to better our world.

Our mission remains unchanged.

I know this has been a turbulent and anxious time due to the ongoing pandemic, resulting economic downturn, and divisive nature of the election. This election revealed the divisions within our communities, and exacerbated tensions across the country. Now more than ever, this is a time for unity, and to demonstrate our collective support for our students and colleagues who have felt vulnerable or marginalized.

Our role in higher education must be to convene the conversations that create common ground on a multitude of issues, including inclusion, equity, and diversity.

As we approach the 81st Legislative session in February there are many unknowns in front of us, but I assure you NSHE's presidents and I will continue to work with our Governor and legislative leaders in a transparent and accountable way to help meet the significant budget challenges we face as a state, and to continue to accelerate higher education success for all Nevadans.

Our state leaders have made a significant investment in the future of their citizens through us in the Nevada System of Higher Education.

After meeting with many of you, I am confident in our ability to be faithful stewards of that investment and achieve our goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody Rose".

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Melody Rose, Ph.D.

Chancellor

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