



NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Nevada's Public Medical Education Expansion Plan *Improving Health & Economic Well-Being Throughout Nevada*

Why do we need to expand public medical education in Nevada?

- **Nevada needs more doctors to serve its current, growing, and aging population.** Nevada ranks 48th nationally in the number of primary care physicians per capita¹ and has one of the fastest aging populations nationally. In fact, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Nevada's population of persons over 65 will double between 2015 and 2030².
- **Nevada's physician shortage will only worsen.** In order to avoid a health care crisis as the state's population approaches 3.7 million by 2030³, hundreds of additional doctors will need to be trained each year through a coordinated statewide public medical education expansion plan to avoid a health care crisis.
- **Public medical education will drive the state's economy.** Academic medical centers are recognized nationally as among the most important drivers of "innovation based" economies. With an estimated \$1.9 billion annual economic impact statewide, and projected support for 12,560 jobs (8,000 in Las Vegas, and 4,560 in Reno) by the year 2030, an investment in the Nevada System of Higher Education's public medical education expansion plan today will help support Nevada's economic growth for years to come.⁴
- **Public medical education strengthens and expands local health care resources.** Public medical education stimulates the development of highly specialized health care services that will allow Nevadans to remain in-state for care. Also, public academic medical centers have a mission to provide needed care to underserved populations throughout their state.
- **Expanding public medical education builds upon the existing investments.** The University of Nevada School of Medicine (UNSOM) is an important and high-quality public educational asset whose thousands of alumni are serving patients and are making life-changing discoveries. However, more doctors and



scientists are needed. Working in close partnership with UNSOM, the UNLV School of Medicine will develop the capacity to serve the health care needs of the Las Vegas metro area as its population grows from nearly 2 million today to more than 3 million by 2030⁵.

- **Graduate Medical Education (GME) expansion along with Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) is the best and only solution.** The UNLV School of Medicine will produce additional graduates who will matriculate into expanded publicly sponsored graduate training programs and become practicing physicians. Based on national averages, students who complete both their UME and GME in Nevada have an 80% chance of remaining in the state. Students that only complete GME in Nevada have only a 60% chance of remaining in the state⁶. Both UNSOM and the UNLV School of Medicine will work to add residency programs not currently available in Nevada.

What are the benefits of public allopathic (M.D. - granting) schools of medicine?

- **Lower debt load for students.** Public medical education is funded by a combination of public funding, private donations, and tuition, while private and for-profit medical schools rely on tuition as their primary source of revenue. The average debt of students graduating from public allopathic schools of

medicine is \$160,000 compared to the \$190,000 debt incurred by students graduating from private schools.

- **Public M.D.-granting (allopathic) schools of medicine are research-intensive.** Public allopathic medical schools are the nation's most important sources of the life-saving breakthroughs that measurably improve the health outcomes of chronic diseases and conditions, such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's disease.

What are the plans for medical education expansion in Nevada?

- With leadership provided by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, a Statewide Public Medical Education Expansion Steering Group (SSG) was formed. The SSG, which is chaired by the Chancellor and includes the leaders at UNR, UNSOM, UNLV, and statewide business leaders, has a shared vision for expanding public medical education and research statewide. Both universities have formally joined forces through a statewide approach facilitated by the NSHE to:



- ◇ **Develop** a separately accredited, full-scale, research-intensive, M.D.-granting (allopathic) medical school at UNLV;
- ◇ **Strengthen** the UNSOM to allow for a research-intensive program where the majority of UME is accomplished in northern Nevada; and
- ◇ **Expand** GME residency and fellowships through the continued sponsorship of UNSOM and future sponsorship of the UNLV School of Medicine.



The vision to expand public medical education statewide by establishing a separately accredited, full-scale, research-intensive, M.D.-granting (allopathic) medical school at UNLV, along with continued development of a comparable full-scale, four-year medical school at the UNSOM is a critical opportunity to elevate the state economically and significantly improve health care statewide. The educational mission is to train, lead, inspire, and facilitate new entrants into the health care workforce in Nevada.

Why should I support the expansion of statewide public medical education?

Nevada is unable to meet the current health care needs of its citizens, and the proposed statewide public medical education expansion plan will improve access to high-quality health care throughout Nevada, meet market demand for future physicians, increase the number of medical specialists, generate high-level clinical care and specialty care, attract more high-quality businesses to Nevada, attract fresh revenue, advance the innovation economy, and contribute to the quality of life for all Nevadans.

1. Population estimates are from the U.S. Census Bureau (July 2014) and physician data are from the 2013 Association of American Medical Colleges State Physician Workforce Data Book.
2. U.S. Census Bureau.
3. U.S. Census Bureau.
4. Tripp Umbach Analysis - 2013 Economic Impact of Medical Education Expansion in Nevada
5. Nevada State Demographer's Office, 2014-Nevada County Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin Estimates and Projections 2000 to 2032.
6. 2013 Association of American Medical Colleges State Physician Workforce Data Book.



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