

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: HANDBOOK Revision, Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards

MEETING DATE: December 5-6, 2019

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Under current policy (*Title 4, Chapter 1, Sections 17 through 20*), the Board of Regents annually acknowledges outstanding performance at NSHE institutions in creative activities, research, teaching, and academic advising. These awards are prestigious and highly competitive among the institutions and their faculty. In the past, the Board has approved a limited expansion in the number of awards within the categories to recognize different types of service or different institution types. In the most recent revision, [June 2018](#), the Board approved the division of the Regents' Researcher Award into two separate awards, Mid-Career and Distinguished Career awards, to be able to delineate length of experience among research faculty and to allow mid-career researchers to be competitive and recognized for their contributions.

At the request of Nevada State College and with the support of the NSHE Academic Affairs Council (AAC) and NSHE Research Affairs Council (RAC), revisions to Board policy governing the Regents' Researcher Awards is recommended.

Currently, Board policy authorizes annually one Regents' Researcher Award each to a Mid-Career and Distinguished Career researcher, competitive among faculty between UNLV, UNR, and DRI. Board policy also authorizes annually a Regent's Rising Researcher Award to a chosen faculty member at each UNLV, UNR and DRI. In response to a request from Nevada State College – and in support from AAC and RAC – they System office recommends revising policy to provide for NSC to select a Regent's Rising Researcher from their institution and to submit faculty candidates to compete for the Regents' Researcher Awards in both Mid-Career and Distinguished Career categories.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18* to include NSC faculty as candidates for both the Mid-Career and Distinguished Career Regents' Researcher Awards as well as to be eligible for the Rising Researchers Awards (See the attached policy proposal.)

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Nevada State College administration requests that NSC faculty be recognized as eligible for the Regents' Researcher Awards. Nevada State College is a four-year institution that also provides a master-level degree and requires research as part of the promotion and tenure process. Therefore, NSC requests their faculty be able to compete for the Mid-Career and Distinguished Career researchers awards and be eligible to receive the Rising Researcher Award.

5. CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

This proposal supports the research strategic plan goal by recognizing, supporting and encouraging NSHE faculty to strive for excellence and outstanding careers.

6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The Nevada Regents Awards are highly competitive, prestigious awards recognizing the achievements of NSHE faculty in support of their respective institutions and the students they serve. The targeted inclusion of NSC in the Regents' Researcher Awards provides the Board an opportunity to acknowledge achievement that otherwise may not be recognized in this manner.
- Within the research field, faculty conducting research should be eligible for consideration for the Regents' Researcher Award regardless of the four-year institution in which they reside. Expanding the award to include NSC faculty provides this opportunity.

7. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

8. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

None have been suggested.

9. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

Support for the policy recommendation.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- X Amends Current Board Policy: ***Title 4, Chapter 1, Sections 18***
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- X Fiscal Impact: Yes X No _____
Explain: The cost of each award is the responsibility of the institution directly related to the awardee.

POLICY PROPOSAL
Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 18
Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 18. Nevada Regents' Researcher Awards

1. The Nevada Regents' Researcher Award shall be given annually to NSHE faculty members at UNLV, UNR, *NSC* and DRI with a distinguished record in research. Two awards will be given annually: one to a faculty member in recognition of a distinguished career in research and one to a faculty member in recognition of mid-career accomplishments in research. Although this award is intended for individuals, groups who by their collaboration have made major advances may be recognized as well. In addition, a Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Award shall be given annually to one NSHE faculty member at UNLV, UNR, *NSC* and DRI in recognition of early-career accomplishments and potential for future advancement and recognition in research.
2. The Researcher Award will carry with it a cash stipend of \$5,000. The intent is to select one individual (or group) for recognition each year for the Researcher Award. However, the Selection Committee may choose to send forward more than one nomination for the Researcher Award in exceptional circumstances. The Rising Researcher Award will carry with it a cash stipend of \$2,000 for each recipient.
3. Faculty members who receive the Regents' Researcher Award may use the title as such in perpetuity.
4. Guidelines for the nomination and selection of the recipient of the Nevada Regents' Researcher Award and the Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Awards shall be established by the office of the Chancellor. Institutions may establish additional guidelines related to the nomination of faculty members for the Nevada Regents' Rising Researcher Award.