

Dr. Dennis Potthoff

Nevada State College

Dennis Potthoff, a small town boy from southwestern Nebraska who was one of ten graduates in the Palisade High School class of 1975, is honored to serve as Dean of the Nevada State College School of Education. A first generation college student, Dennis earned three college degrees at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Potthoff has dedicated his entire professional career to public education. He taught social studies and coached multiple sports in middle schools and high schools for more than a decade in Nebraska and Canada before moving to college level teaching and then administration. Prior to assuming a position at Nevada State in July 2015, Potthoff worked in Colleges of Education at Wichita State University and the University of Nebraska Kearney. Dennis is so thankful that he “found teaching;” it has brought great joy to his life. In addition, he has enjoyed the opportunity to engage in scholarly endeavor. The author of 25+ refereed publications and 100+ presentations, Potthoff’s primary research interests include school/university partnerships, instructional methods, and education for democracy. Potthoff’s family includes his wife Patricia, three adult children, and one recently acquired son-in-law.

Brian Zeiszler

Great Basin College

Brian Zeiszler is currently the Department Chair for Teacher Education at Great Basin College in Elko, NV which serves ten of the most rural counties in Nevada. He is also the program supervisor for secondary education and works with students who teach or will teach in the core endorsement areas of biology, mathematics, social sciences, and English. Brian teaches courses in Educational Psychology, Foundations of Education, Curriculum Development for Family Engagement, and multiple field experiences that include supervising student teachers. Brian was previously a Biology and Chemistry instructor for 25 years in Elko County School District at Wells Combined and Elko High Schools. He most recently graduated from Montana State University with a M.S. in Science Education. His undergraduate degrees, a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Chemistry and a B.S. in Secondary Education, are from the University of North Dakota.

During Brian's time as a secondary science teacher, he was involved with many aspects of Nevada education: Officer with the Nevada State Science Teachers' Association (NSSTA), High School Proficiency Exam Development teams, Elko County Science Curricular Development teams, NV State Math and Science Cadre, Nevada Science Teacher Enhancement Program (N-STEP), etc.

Brian continues to be an advocate for education issues that are important to the rural counties Great Basin College serves. Brian is married to a kindergarten teacher and has 3 adult children.