

Regents' Scholar – CSN  
Jennifer Stevens

Jennifer Stevens is a single mom of two, employed as a dealer in a casino for many years, who strives to become more educated and pursue a passion for microbiology. Jennifer is 34 and pursuing an Associate's in Biology at CSN. Last spring, she joined the inaugural class of Sea Phage research, Biology 299. She and her classmates scoured the desert soils for novel bacteriophage (virus that infect only bacteria). She successfully discovered more than one, sequenced its genome and took scanning electron micrographs of it. In addition, the class annotated the genome, or made comparisons between the newly discovered phages' DNA and the genetic material of other known organisms.

Jennifer is currently Vice President of the Biology Club, and volunteers when she is not working or mothering for many charities. Jennifer was an invited speaker to Biology 325 for which she received no compensation...and though she claimed she was quite nervous it was excellent. She has also presented at Biology club several times which shows her dedication to scholarship and willingness to volunteer herself to discuss science in front of groups. Jennifer has overcome a lot of adversity in her 34 years. She was orphaned at age 2, adopted by elderly relatives who permitted a family member to abuse her. She finished high school pregnant and was divorced with no employable skills. Since coming to CSN biology, she has made herself well-known by attending many functions, doing extremely well in her classes and helping out with microbiology lab preparations. Jennifer is pursuing her love of science with a passion and ferocity.

Regents' Scholar – TMCC  
Sarah Wynne Goodman

Nursing school is far more than learning to insert an IV or give a medication. When I started nursing school in the fall of 2018, I did not fully envision the mental and spiritual evolution that nursing school would trigger within me. Prior to nursing school, I felt I was simply going through the motions and putting in my time when it came to helping others and investing me. I was born and raised in Reno, NV. I've worked within the children's ministry of my church since my freshman year of high school as a Sunday school teacher and helper, but many weeks I would question whether my reserved and somewhat introverted personality could really make a difference in the lives of those around me. Now, in my third semester in the Maxine S. Jacob's Nursing Program at Truckee Meadows Community College, I feel I've finally found a passion to which I can devote my life.

I now serve every week in my church's junior church program which focuses on under-privileged and neglected children we bring in every week on our church's "bus route." My love for each student has grown from a responsibility to a passion. Being in the Maxine S. Jacob's program has also helped me gain the confidence to begin volunteering with an amazing medical missionary group, Amazon Connect. This past July, I was privileged to travel to the Columbian and Brazilian river basin on a medical-mission team and serve within the remote fishing villages to provide check-ups, basic medical care, water filtration systems, and vital hygiene and household items. This trip was a true eye-opener to my responsibility as a future nurse to care for those that are over-looked and neglected. Nursing is a lifestyle, not a shift. In these South American villages, where a glass of clean, parasite-free water is a luxury, my ability to treat a skin infection or hold the hand of a scared child left a permanent conviction within me. I can make a difference by leaving my world and entering the worlds of my patients.

I currently mentor two first-semester students and act as an un-official mentor for many pre-nursing students I meet at my job at the TMCC Elizabeth Sturm library where I work as a circulation assistant. I've felt honored to act as a mentor when these students come with questions such as how to apply to the program or how to study for their next pharmacology exam. Many times, I'm simply a listening ear to their anxiety and fears. I want them to have all the support and encouragement I did. I will be graduating from my nursing program the Spring of 2020 and I will pursue a future in medical mission work—again with Amazon-Connect this upcoming summer as well as with different groups and countries. After completing my Bachelor of Nursing, I will be pursuing Nurse Practitioner School to specialize in labor and delivery and pediatrics. Through nursing, I have opened the door for hope and I want to offer the same hope to those around me.

Regents' Scholar – WNC  
Payten Rose

My name is Payten Rose and I am a second-year nursing student in the WNC nursing program. I currently participate in several different clubs and programs that have a major focus on philanthropy and community service; as well as volunteer on my own, separate from these programs. Some of the clubs I am an active member of include WNC's National Student Nurses Association in which I am currently Secretary, I am also liaison for the Nevada Nurses Association, Nevada Nurses Foundation, and Nevada Student Nurses Association, I actively participate in Second Year Club, and next year I will begin working as a member of the marketing board for the Nevada Nurses Foundation and the Nevada Nurses Association. Some of the major events in which I have volunteered in the past year include: The Special Olympics, the Nevada Nurses Foundation Hat and High Tea fundraiser, as well as the Nevada Nurses Foundation Shinning Stars of Nevada event where I received the honor of the Student Nurse Leader Award. Separate from these clubs and events I also frequently volunteer with families in the Reno area who have children and adults with special needs to give the parents the break that they so greatly deserve. I have also been actively working on bringing the nursing schools in the area together to fundraise for a common cause. Earlier this year we fundraised for change point to help them provide hygiene supplies to the homeless population in our area. Now we are actively fundraising luggage for foster children who are living out of trash bags, as well as coats for the big Reno coat drive. Up until now the nursing schools have not commonly worked together before and I have come to find that we make a greater impact together! While doing all of this I work as a CNA and Nurse apprentice at Carson Tahoe Hospital where I have been nominated as employee of the quarter as well as work privately for a man who has cerebral palsy to help him with his activities of daily living. I hope to continue my education and earn a PhD in Nursing. With this PhD I plan to specialize in developmental disabilities and become a nursing educator. As someone who has struggled with autoimmune diseases most of my life and who has experience with those who have developmental disabilities, I hope to bring insight to my future students on how we can help our patients not only while they are in our care, but also make a positive impact in their quality of life once they are discharged. Receiving the honor of this scholarship would be pivotal for me as it would allow me to work less hours and spend more time volunteering in our community. This scholarship would also help me pay for the continuation of my education so that I could go on to help our community in these ways. Thank you for considering me for this honor.

Regents' Scholar – NSC  
Eduardo Mabilog

Eduardo is a first-generation senior English major who was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. Born to immigrant parents who valued education, he has strived to find new inclusive and adaptive strategies and approaches to teaching writing. As it relates to the Nevada State College community Eduardo has helped serve as a leader and contributed to the campus's inclusivity through various means. These contributions exist in different spaces ranging from the writing center, classrooms, faculty development meetings, and outside events. In part he has helped coordinate interdepartmental events to help foster student engagement and assist with student course work. In addition, he has helped conduct various workshops for various student support programs and courses on campus. Notably, Eduardo's workshops on anti-racism in student support work have helped create needed conversations on the manners in which the campus can still find ways to strive for excellence. His recent appointment to the Liberal Arts and Science Dean search committee exemplifies the state in which his insight and voice have become of asset to Nevada State College.

Moreover, Eduardo has been recognized by various national and international organizations for his leadership and contributions to the field of writing studies. In 2018, Eduardo was awarded the International Writing Centers Association's Future Leader Award. Much of this recognition was for the already established contributions Eduardo has helped create and foster through conference presentations focused on student voice, motivation, and language since 2017. In 2019, Eduardo was given an even more prestigious award at the largest conference and organization for writing studies: The Conference for College Composition and Communications. The Scholars for the Dream Award was given to him for the manners in which his work uniquely provides room to increase diversity and inclusivity within the field of writing studies. Eduardo was one of few undergraduates in the history of the organization to receive this award. Eduardo plans to pursue a PhD in Rhetoric and Composition. He sees this next step as an opportunity to continue engaging with and learning from students. He plans to become a college professor and investigate the manners in which minoritized students continue to face exclusion and barriers which limit the potential to see their identities aligned with their education.

Regents' Scholar – Undergraduate – UNLV  
Dylan Wallace

Mr. Dylan Wallace is a senior in the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, with a major in Electrical Engineering and minors in Computer Science and Mathematics. In 2019, Dylan received the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship. He was a recipient of an NSF International Research Experience of Students (IRES) Fellowship; he spent 10-weeks in summer 2017 at the KAIST Hubo Lab in South Korea where he co-authored a journal paper on cloud-based robotics. Dylan interned at the Naval Research Lab (NRL) in the summer 2018. Dylan was co-author on the paper published at the Ubiquitous Robotics and Ambient Intelligence (URAI) conference in July of 2017. Dylan authored a paper published at the Computing and Communications Workshop & Conference (CCWC) in January of 2018.

Dylan is actively engaged with engineering student organizations at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas promoting STEM education as an engineering student ambassador. He served as Vice President of IEEE UNLV for the past 2 years and became a member of Tau Beta Pi in 2017. Dylan plays leadership roles in serving underprivileged high school students for the CAEO Upward Bound program and mentoring local middle and high school students at the Clark County Library's Teen Tech Center.

Regents' Scholar – Graduate – UNLV  
Miliaikeala SJ. Heen

Miliaikeala SJ. Heen is currently a doctoral student in the Department of Criminal Justice, working under Dr. Joel Lieberman as her faculty advisor and mentor. She received both her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in Criminal Justice. Her current research looks at reducing sexual assault and harassment in crowds (i.e., music concerts and festivals, night and day clubs, sporting events), by examining personality factors and situational dynamics that facilitate and contribute to sexual violence. In addition, Heen examines public attitudes toward law enforcement use of technology, the application of terror management concepts, cognitive persuasion models, and expert testimony manipulations within the context of jury decision-making.

Regents' Scholar – UNR Undergraduate  
Edward Cruz

Edward Cruz is a senior undergraduate in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) Department at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), and his professional aspiration is to earn a Ph.D. in plant biochemistry and pursue his career goal of becoming an academic researcher. In the Wallace lab, his overarching research goal is to understand how plant post-translational modifications (PTMs) regulate metabolism and signaling. Specifically, he created the Functional Analysis Tools for Post-Translational Modifications (FAT-PTM) database, which is a significantly improved resource of PTM information for plant model organisms and agriculturally relevant plant species that is featured on The Arabidopsis Information Resource (TAIR), a central repository of Arabidopsis thaliana information for the plant biology community. Additionally, he has focused on classifying protein kinase subfamilies in the common liverwort, *Marchantia polymorpha*, and developing approaches to establish *Marchantia* as a novel platform for PTM network discovery. Edward has published two peer-reviewed publications and is the first-author on a paper that describes the construction of the FAT-PTM database in *Plant Journal*. He has earned several prestigious awards including the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR UROP, a summer undergraduate research fellowship from the American Society of Plant Biologists, and most recently the Barry Goldwater Scholarship.

Beyond research, Edward is an active member in youth mentoring programs that serve underrepresented communities. Currently, he serves as a mentor for the Community of Bilingual English-Spanish Speakers (CBESS) program that seeks to increase the number of bilingual English-Spanish students who pursue paths in healthcare-related fields to address the expanding Hispanic community and lack of bilingual competency in healthcare. Through this program, he provides peer-mentorship to high school students over the course of their junior and senior years in family-engaged career exploration, an intensive summer research program, community outreach, and research dissemination.

In the future, Edward aspires to establish how enzyme-substrate networks function at a systems scale and to understand how protein kinases or other PTM-catalyzing enzymes regulate large groups of substrates to control critical signaling regulatory points and associated PTM sites that could be manipulated to control plant metabolism, growth, or development. Additionally, he aims to continue his community involvement and inspire a new generation of researchers, featuring a mosaic of perspectives, to further advance plant research.

Regents' Scholar - UNR Graduate  
Bruce (Taylor) Lensch

Bruce (Taylor) Lensch is a fourth year PhD student in Public Health with an emphasis in Epidemiology at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Taylor previously completed his BS in Biology and MPH in Epidemiology, also from UNR. Throughout his time as a graduate student, Taylor has been actively engaged in research activities pertaining to adolescent health. Since 2014, he has served as the coordinator of the CDC-funded Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) for the state of Nevada. During his time as coordinator of the YRBS, Taylor has led data collection efforts of more than 30,000 student surveys across the state and more than 20 contracted research reports. Currently, Taylor also serves as a research associate on an NIH-funded study designed to measure whether the legalization of recreational cannabis in Nevada, including dispensary density and advertising, has influenced cannabis use and associated behaviors among secondary school students. Taylor is the lead author on two adolescent health publications that are published in high impact public health journals and has served as a co-author on six additional peer-reviewed articles. He has also presented research findings at numerous local and national conferences, and regularly gives presentations to various state agencies and prevention planning groups throughout Nevada. In addition to his research activities, Taylor spent five semesters as a teaching assistant for an undergraduate biostatistics course and taught his own course this summer. His excellent reviews as a TA and an instructor show his passion and commitment for educating future public health professionals.