

# BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

**1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** CSN Honorary Degree Recipient, 2020 Commencement

**MEETING DATE:** March 5-6, 2020

**2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

Annual nomination of an individual to receive an honorary degree at May commencement ceremony.

**3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

CSN President Federico Zaragoza requests approval to present Jeffrey Cooper with an honorary Associate's degree on May 18, 2020 at commencement.

**4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

Jeff Cooper has served on the CSN Foundation board for more than 10 years. Throughout that time he has served as a tireless advocate for CSN students, programs. Jeff has introduced many in Southern Nevada and beyond to CSN which has led to philanthropic support of CSN priorities. This was never more important than in the last three years. Through Jeff's leadership, counsel and outreach, the CSN Foundation successfully raised more than \$3,000,000 to meet the Engelstad Family Foundation challenge match. The successful completion of the campaign has set a new fundraising standard for the Foundation. More importantly, through Jeff's leadership the Southern Nevada health care workforce, CSN, and NSC students as well as patients in Southern Nevada will benefit from a new Health Sciences building in Henderson allowing us to double the number of nurses who graduate every year.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

Jeff understands the growth of Southern Nevada workforce and CSN's leadership in this sector. As a Foundation board member, he is aware of the access to education CSN provides to many students who are the first in their family to attend and graduate from college. Most of the CSN Foundation fundraising focuses on scholarship funds to lessen or eliminate the education debt CSN students carry. Jeff is connecting CSN and the Foundation to potential donors who want to contribute to filling that gap for students allowing them to concentrate on their education. All of his efforts focus on supporting student success.

**6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- Jeff readily leverages his professional and personal connections to share CSN success and tell our story.
- As a Foundation board member, Jeff always bringing his expertise and focuses on how to move our work forward.
- As a community leader, Jeff serves on a number of local and national nonprofit boards. He not only finds time for these commitments, but also connects CSN when it relates to the commitment to education in Southern Nevada.

**7. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None

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

CSN would not present an honorary degree in May 2020.

**9. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:**

**10. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/>	Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No <u>x</u> _____
	Explain: _____



## Honorary Degree Nomination Form

1. Degree to be Awarded:

Honorary Doctorate  Honorary Baccalaureate  Honorary Associate

2. Please state the name and address of your nominee for an Honorary Degree.

Jeffrey Cooper

3. Honorary degrees shall be awarded to persons who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the quality of academic programs and academic life at one of the NSHE's institutions. Persons currently holding public elected office are not eligible for the degree except in extraordinary circumstances.

What are your reasons for nominating this person? (Attach additional pages, if necessary.)

Jeffrey Cooper has served on the CSN Foundation board for more than 10 years. Throughout that time, he has served as a tireless advocate for CSN students and programs. Jeff has introduced many in Southern Nevada and beyond to CSN which has led to philanthropic support of CSN priorities. This was never more important than in the last three years. Through Jeff's leadership, counsel and outreach, the CSN Foundation successfully raised more than \$3,000,000 to meet the Engelstad Family Foundation challenge match. The successful completion of the campaign has set a new fundraising standard for the Foundation. More importantly, through Jeff's leadership the Southern Nevada health care workforce, CSN and NSC students, as well as patients in Southern Nevada will benefit from a new Health Sciences building in Henderson allowing us to double the number of nurses who graduate every year.

*Leah Jany* 02/03/2020  
President Date

College of Southern Nevada  
Institution

(B/R 3/03; Added 6/05)