

# BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

**1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** CSN Honorary Degree Recipient, 2021 Commencement

**MEETING DATE:** March 4-5, 2021

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

Annual nomination of an individual to receive an honorary degree at 2021 commencement ceremony.

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

CSN President Federico Zaragoza requests approval to present Jacqueline Dennis with an honorary Associate's degree at CSN's 2021 commencement ceremony

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

Standing item for March Board

**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**

Giving the honorary degree to Ms. Dennis inspires success in others who can identify with her story. Her dedication to assisting students complete and join the workforce not only supports NSHE goals, but CSN goals as well.

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

- Jacqueline is a CSN alum and an admirable example of dedication to the success of other CSN students.
- Her selfless response during the COVID pandemic inspires others in the medical field.
- She responded to the serious need for medical professionals through her own efforts, which made it possible for students at CSN to complete the required clinical rotations, become certified, and join the workforce in essential health-related professions.

**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 2021.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No x \_\_\_\_\_  
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.

Jacqueline Dennis

3. Jacqueline Dennis, first of her family to attend college, graduated in 2013 earning an Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology, now acts as a Certified Surgical Technologist active in the trauma unit of a major hospital for the past seven years. Apart from her own active position, Jacqueline has been instructing classes of clinical labs for the College of Southern Nevada's Surgical Technology program in the Reno Division for the last four years, working to bring those interested in the career, into the workforce.

Jacqueline has advanced her studies while maintaining both careers and children at home. Last year she continued to work in the OR when others could not. She has helped countless COVID patients who needed care. When Las Vegas clinical sites were no longer taking students from CSN, Jackie made sure those who could travel to Reno were able to finish clinical rotations there.

As well as mentoring her clinical lab students, she has also taught classes at Truckee Meadows Community College and is pursuing a Bachelor's degree from Nevada State College. Despite the challenges and obstacles to her successes during her career including our current pandemic, Jacqueline has thrived under pressure with her responsibilities as a professor, employee, mentor, and leader.

Jacqueline today is excelling in the work force. With the current conditions of the world, she has spared no expense to educate her students safely, maintain a family environment and continue to educate and recreate the knowledge and skills for a successful future.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

02/02/2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
College of Southern Nevada  
Institution

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