

NSHE Board of Regents Juneteenth Resolution

Draft as of November 1, 2022

Resolution to encourage the 2023 Nevada Legislature to establish Juneteenth as a state recognized holiday.

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents (“Board”) of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is vested with the public’s trust in fulfilling NSHE’s core strategic mission and commitment to higher education, research, and public service in Nevada by supporting and advancing all persons, while recognizing that African Americans still face significant challenges that hinder our Nation’s promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth recognizes that on June 19, 1865, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the [Emancipation Proclamation](#)¹, the enslaved people in Galveston, Texas finally received word that they were no longer under bondage; and

WHEREAS, the following year, African Americans began celebrating June 19 as “Juneteenth Independence Day” to commemorate the survival and determination of African Americans through extreme adversity, hardship, and triumph; and

WHEREAS, more than half of US states and the District of Columbia currently recognize Juneteenth as a public holiday and Nevada first recognized Juneteenth Day in 2011 when [Assembly Bill 174](#)² was signed into law, requiring the governor to annually proclaim June 19 to be Juneteenth Day in the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2021, [Juneteenth National Independence Day Act s. 475](#)³ was signed into law creating a federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, the Board firmly believes that Juneteenth should be recognized as an official holiday in the State of Nevada; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board and the NSHE Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Council recommends the 2023 Nevada Legislature establish Juneteenth as a state recognized holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, establishing Juneteenth as a state recognized paid holiday provides an opportunity to recognize progress while also acknowledging, discussing, and acting on the continued struggle for freedom for African Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board and its Regents are dedicated to continuing to dismantle systemic bias and institutional discrimination, promote racial justice, and improve race relations.

This Resolution is agreed to by:

PASSED AND ADOPTED on _____, 2023.

Chair
Board of Regents
Nevada System of Higher Education

(SEAL)

Attest:

Interim Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents and
Ex-facto Secretary of the Board of Regents

¹ <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation#:~:text=President%20Abraham%20Lincoln%20issued%20the,and%20henceforward%20s hall%20be%20free.%22>

² <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/76th2011/Bills/AB/AB174.pdf>

³ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-117s475enr/pdf/BILLS-117s475enr.pdf>