

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER

**1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Nevada State University Honorary Degree Recipient, 2024 Commencement

**MEETING DATE:** February 29-March 1, 2024

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

Nomination of an individual to receive an honorary degree at 2024 commencement ceremony.

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

Nevada State University President DeRionne Pollard requests approval to award Ms. Kelly Maxwell with an honorary degree at Nevada State University's 2024 commencement ceremony.

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

Standing item for March Board meeting

**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**

Ms. Kelly Maxwell is a native Las Vegan and the Executive Director of Baby's Bounty. Dedicated to providing "a good start for every baby", Maxwell implemented the Baby Bundle program which has helped distribute 3 million diapers and 6 million wipes to over 40,000 Nevada families. Additionally, Maxwell launched a partnership with Nevada's NSHE institutions – Diapers for Diplomas, to support parenting students. Year to date, across the participating NSHE institutions, Baby's Bounty has distributed a total of 348,000 diapers for this program alone. At the conclusion of the 2023/2024 academic year, they will have distributed 696,000 diapers. Year to date, 139,200 diapers were distributed to Nevada State University students enrolled in the program, which will be a total of 278,400 for the 2023/2024 academic year as a result of this partnership. In recognition of her commitment, strong partnership and impact, Nevada State University is delighted to recognize Ms. Kelly Maxwell with an honorary degree.

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

- Appointed by Governor Sisolak as chair of the Diapering Resource Committee
- Leadership Las Vegas 2022 cohort
- 2023 Jameson Fellow
- Frequent guest lecturer at both University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Nevada State University
- Partnership with Nevada's NSHE institutions – Diapers for Diplomas, to support parenting students
- Helped pass SB428 to remove sales tax on diapers and many other initiatives to support families across our state
- Implementation of the Baby Bundle program - has helped over 40,000 Nevada families
- Design and launch of the Diapers for Diplomas program resulting in the disbursement of almost 140,000 diapers to Nevada State students
- Active with local organizations, including Leaders in Training, Project Marilyn and Serving our Kids

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

None

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

None

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

The Chancellor's Office supports the nomination and recommends approval.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_



## Honorary Degree Nomination Form

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1. Degree to be Awarded:

Honorary Doctorate     Honorary Masters     Honorary Baccalaureate     Honorary Associate

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

Kelly Maxwell | [REDACTED]

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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.)

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Please see attached page

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January 26, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Nevada State University  
Institution

## **Kelly Maxwell**

Las Vegas native and Baby's Bounty Executive Director Kelly Maxwell has transformed the non-profit into a community leader. Concurrent with a career in executive leadership in both hospitality and technology, Maxwell joined Baby's Bounty as a board member in 2014 before moving into the CEO/Executive Director role in 2020. Taking the helm very early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Maxwell expanded the organization's programming with the creation of the first consistent diaper bank resource in the state of Nevada. She then expanded the diaper bank beyond Las Vegas into Henderson, North Las Vegas, and Northern Nevada. With a local's knowledge of her community, she also added mobile diaper banks in both Northern and Southern Nevada to address diaper need in rural, underserved communities.

Since the diaper bank's inception, Baby's Bounty has distributed nearly four million diapers to over 45,000 families. Continually seeking ways to remove barriers for parents struggling in poverty, Maxwell launched Diapers for Diplomas, an innovative partnership with Nevada's NSHE institutions to provide diapers for parenting students enrolled in the participating colleges and universities. Year to date, across the participating NSHE institutions, Baby's Bounty has distributed a total of 348,000 diapers for this program alone. At the conclusion of the 2023/2024 academic year, they will have distributed 696,00 diapers. Year to date, 139,200 diapers were distributed to Nevada State University students enrolled in the program, which will be a total of 278,400 for the 2023/2024 academic year.

Kelly worked to successfully pass Senate Bill 428 with Senator Edgar Flores to remove the sales tax on diapers and entered into a partnership with the Secretary of State, State Treasurer and DHHS to support the State's Infant to Work program. Maxwell is partnering with Congressman Steven Horsford for a Childcare Solutions Summit to address the childcare crisis in Nevada. Through these, and other projects in the works, Maxwell aims to continue expanding services for Nevada's tiniest residents.

She is a Court of Master Sommeliers certified sommelier, a graduate of Leadership Las Vegas, a Jameson Fellow, a guest lecturer at UNLV's Lee Business School and Honors College and Nevada State University and was appointed by Governor Steve Sisolak to Chair the Statewide Diapering Resource Committee. With proven purpose and passion, Kelly Maxwell epitomizes what support through community and NSHE partnerships looks like. Nevada State University is honored to nominate her for this honorary degree.