

**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 the 2024 commencement ceremony.

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

Nevada State University President DeRionne Pollard requests approval to award Sandra Douglass Morgan with an honorary degree at Nevada State University's 2024 commencement ceremony.

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

Standing item for the 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. Sandra Douglass Morgan is a phenomenal community leader and currently serves as the President of the Las Vegas Raiders. Having an adept understanding of the community as a native Las Vegas, Ms. Douglass Morgan is incredibly proud to lead the Silver and Black in her hometown. She is widely recognized for her commitment to Nevada businesses, education, support for local causes, and service to communities of color. Ms. Douglass Morgan's commitment and service make her a choice awardee.

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

- UNLV Boyd School of Law's Distinguished Service Alumni Recipient
- Awarded Corporate to Community Connector from National Urban League Young Professionals
- Serves on the Board of Trustees for the UNLV Foundation
- EBONY's 2022 most influential "Women in Business and Politics"
- Urban Chamber of Commerce's Ladies of Distinction award
- National Bar Association's Attorney of the Year 2012
- In 2012, Sandra was named Attorney of the Year by the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association which recognized her commitment to serving the local community, especially communities of color
- Vice chair of Super Bowl LVIII Host Committee - taking place at Allegiant Stadium and marking Las Vegas' first time hosting
- Ms. Douglass Morgan will serve as Nevada State University's keynote speaker for the May 2024 commencement keynote speaker

**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

---

---

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.

Sandra Douglass Morgan | [REDACTED]

---

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.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please see attached page

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



January 26, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Nevada State University  
Institution

## **Ms. Sandra Douglass Morgan**

Ms. Sandra Douglass Morgan was named President of the Las Vegas Raiders by owner Mark Davis in July of 2022. Having an adept understanding of the community as a native Las Vegas, Ms. Douglass Morgan is incredibly proud to lead the Silver and Black in her hometown.

Widely recognized for her commitment to Nevada businesses, education, and support for local causes, she is the recipient of the UNLV Boyd School of Law's Distinguished Service Alumni Award and the Corporate to Community Connector award from the National Urban League Young Professionals. She was honored to be included in the EBONY 2022 Power 100 List, the most influential "Women in Business and Politics," receiving an award from the Urban Chamber of Commerce in 2015 along with the Ladies of Distinction Award in 2013 from Olive Crest, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting abused and neglected children. In 2012, Ms. Douglass Morgan was named Attorney of the Year by the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association which recognized her commitment to serving the local community, especially communities of color.

Ms. Douglass Morgan has served on a variety of nonprofit boards and is currently the vice chair of Super Bowl LVIII Host Committee, which will take place at Allegiant Stadium in 2024, marking the first time Las Vegas will host one of the most-watched annual sporting events in the world. Additionally, Ms. Douglass Morgan serves on the Board of Directors of Allegiant Travel Company and Fidelity National Financial, Inc., and is on the Board of Trustees for the UNLV Foundation. She is also a member of the State Bar of Nevada and the District of Columbia Bar.

Ms. Douglass Morgan graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a degree in Political Science and holds a Juris Doctor from the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She resides in Las Vegas with her husband Don and their two children.