

**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 Dr. Federico Zaragoza 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 21st 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

As President for the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), Dr. Federico Zaragoza heads one of the largest multi-campus higher education institutions in the country. Through relationship building and a passion for excellence, Dr. Zaragoza creates pathways in the great state of Nevada for students to pursue their careers in healthcare and other fields. Exceptional leadership and commitment to the students and community of Nevada make Dr. Federico Zaragoza most deserving of this honor.

6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- More than a third of all nurses in Nevada were trained at CSN
- Maintains affiliations with more than 350 local businesses and organizations where students can apply their skills in hospitals, schools, private clinics and other real-life work settings
- Led as Achieving the Dream designated CSN as a national Leader College of Distinction
- Co-authored the Texas Workforce Commission Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Handbook for Workforce Professionals and the National Science Foundation
- Keynote speaker at the National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE) 2020 Annual Convention
- Featured presenter for the White House on Higher Education Anchor Institutions
- Keynote speaker at the National Career Pathway Network 2013 Annual Conference
- National Society of Hispanic MBAs' Education Brillante Award
- Keynote speaker on workforce innovation at the National Festival of Innovation in New Delhi
- Texas Association of Community Colleges Carl Nelson Leadership Award recipient
- Dr. Zaragoza's committed partnership with Nevada State University has enabled the development of stronger transfer practices with both institutions leading to better support of students in their pathway to graduate.

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.

Dr. Federico Zaragoza

[REDACTED ADDRESS]

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

Deanne P. Pollard

January 26, 2024

President

Date

Nevada State University
Institution

Dr. Federico Zaragoza

Dr. Federico Zaragoza is the President for the College of Southern Nevada (CSN). He heads one of the largest multi-campus higher education institutions in the country. In promotion of the continued pursuit of higher education, CSN offers associate degrees for university transfer and 10 baccalaureate degree programs. The College's Ralph and Betty Engelstad School of Health Sciences is the state's premier educational provider for the healthcare workforce. More than a third of all nurses in Nevada were trained at CSN. Community partnership in Nevada is important and through Dr. Zaragoza's leadership, CSN maintains affiliations with more than 350 local businesses and organizations where students can apply their skills in hospitals, schools, private clinics and other real-life work settings. Dr. Zaragoza is the principal spokesperson for the college and under his leadership, Achieving the Dream designated CSN as a national Leader College of Distinction in 2019.

Dr. Zaragoza is on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), which is the primary advocacy organization for the nation's community colleges. Additionally, he is a distinguished lecturer in technical and industrial education, including basic skill integration. He has lectured throughout the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia, Germany, India, Peru, Nicaragua, and Spain. He co-authored the Texas Workforce Commission Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Handbook for Workforce Professionals and the National Science Foundation, AMTEC- National Case Study on Career Pathway Programs That Work. He has keynoted many national and state conferences. Most recently he was a keynote speaker at the National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE) 2020 Annual Convention. He was also a keynote speaker at the National Career Pathway Network at the 2013 Annual Conference and the featured presenter for the White House on Higher Education Anchor Institutions in 2016. He was invited by the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to provide one of the keynote addresses on workforce innovation at the National Festival of Innovation (New Delhi, March, 2016).

Dr. Zaragoza has received numerous awards including the Education Brillante Award from the National Society of Hispanic MBAs (NSHMBA) and the Texas Association of Community Colleges' Carl Nelson Leadership Award. Through leadership and commitment to Nevada's students, Dr. Federico Zaragoza directly contributes to the academic achievements of our great state. His committed partnership with Nevada State University has enabled the development of stronger transfer practices with both institutions leading to better support of students in their pathway to graduate.