

**BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER**

**1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** CSN Honorary Degree Recipient, 2024 Commencement

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

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

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

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

CSN President Federico Zaragoza requests approval to present Kenneth Evans with an honorary Associate’s degree at CSN’s 2024 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**

Kenneth Evans is a retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel, respected community leader, and longtime president of the Urban Chamber of Las Vegas. He is a former member of CSN’s Institutional Advisory Council, advocating for local underserved communities to continue education. He has a civil engineering degree from the USAF, an MBA, is a graduate of Leadership Las Vegas, and assists diverse small business owners in pursuing procurement opportunities in new, emerging, and existing markets. (strategic goals: access, success, close the achievement gap, workforce)

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

- Knows the importance of Higher Education
- Almost 10 years as Urban Chamber President
- Member of CSN’s IAC
- Instrumental in successful small business entrepreneurship mentoring

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

None

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

CSN would not present an honorary degree at graduation in 2024.

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

The Chancellor's Office supports approval of this request.

**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.

Kenneth Evans

[REDACTED]

[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.)

Kenneth Evans is a retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel, respected community leader, and longtime president of the Urban Chamber of Las Vegas. He is a former member of CSN's Institutional Advisory Council, advocating for local underserved communities to continue education. He has a civil engineering degree from the USAF, an MBA, is a graduate of Leadership Las Vegas, and assists diverse small business owners in pursuing procurement opportunities in new, emerging, and existing markets. (strategic goals: access, success, close the achievement gap, workforce)

- Knows the importance of Higher Education
- Almost 10 years as Urban Chamber President
- Member of CSN's IAC
- Instrumental in successful small business entrepreneurship mentoring

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

01/30/2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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