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For Immediate Release:

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CSN to Graduate Record Number of Students

A focus on student success has helped more than 15,000 students graduate in the last 5 years

LAS VEGAS, May 3, 2018 — The College of Southern Nevada expects to graduate its largest class ever at its 46th annual commencement ceremony May 14 at the Thomas & Mack Center.

A record 3,597 students are eligible to receive 3,716 degrees and certificates, according to preliminary data. Official numbers for the spring 2018 semester will be available once final semester grades are available. In the last five years, more than 15,000 students have graduated from CSN.

“I could not be more proud of these students, and of our great faculty and staff who work so hard to change lives every day,” said CSN Acting President Dr. Margo L. Martin. “Nevada needs more college graduates. I’m thrilled that so many students have been able to seize the opportunities that CSN offers them. I cannot wait to celebrate each and every one of them at our largest commencement ceremony ever.”

The college has continually graduated record class sizes for over five years, which college officials attribute to a consistent focus on student success. Since 2012, the college has launched or expanded services such as free tutoring, opening math and writing resources centers on each campus, and dedicated counselors for degree-seeking students. In addition, new freshmen are required to attend orientation sessions, take placement testing and meet with advisors or counselors prior to enrolling in classes.

Among the graduating class are some extraordinary students, all of whom are available for media interviews:

- **Lauryn Guerrissi**, CSN’s 2018 Regents’ Scholar winner and the 2017 Outstanding Student in physical science. Lauryn went from college dropout to scientist, thanks to a CSN chemistry professor and mentor who “pretty much changed my whole life.” She had previously failed and dropped out of CSN, worked a few years as a bartender, and realized that she didn’t want to pursue that as a career. She reenrolled and excelled. She tutors chemistry, is involved with research for NASA through CSN, and won the Act of Human Kindness Award at St. Rose Hospitals, where she volunteers. She plans on pursuing engineering as a career.
- **Jadee Glover**, a single mom who personifies the word determination. Jadee started classes at CSN three years ago, and almost immediately her life fell apart. Her mother passed away, she found out she was pregnant, and went into premature labor – all while still attending classes. Although Jadee failed the semester she gave birth, she was determined not to give up. She came back and worked harder than ever, even with a new baby at home. She’ll be graduating with a degree in accounting, and plans on pursuing that as a career. “You have to want to graduate,” she said. “There were so many times I wanted to give up, but I wanted to graduate more.”

- **Andrew Gobran**, who failed and dropped out of CSN a few years ago. He was working in the banking industry and doing well, but felt like he'd reached a ceiling he couldn't get through without a college degree. The problem was, he had no idea how to go to college. His parents are from Egypt, and no one he knew could offer much advice. He enrolled at CSN, wandered around for a few years, didn't do very well, and finally figured out that he needed to commit himself to graduating. So he got motivated. He joined student clubs, became involved in the student government, and started putting all his effort into his classes. After he graduates next month, he plans to go on to a university and study business and finance. "I definitely wouldn't have been able to do it without CSN," he said. "CSN gave me something to be a part of."

CSN's 46th Commencement Ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, May 14 at the Thomas & Mack Center on UNLV's campus. Media interested in talking to students prior to the commencement between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. are encouraged to contact CSN Public Relations specialist Richard Lake at richard.lake@csn.edu or 702-651-7715. The ceremony will also be streamed live on the internet and available to the public at www.csn.edu/live.

What: 46th CSN Commencement ceremony

When: 6 p.m. Monday, May 14

Where: Thomas & Mack Center

About CSN:

Founded in 1971, the College of Southern Nevada is the state's largest and most ethnically diverse higher education institution. CSN is accredited through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and specializes in two-year degrees and workforce development that lead directly to high-demand careers or transfer to a university. It also offers five bachelor's degrees in specialized fields and is the state's largest provider of adult basic education and literacy training. CSN is a Minority Serving Institution and Nevada's first Hispanic Serving Institution.

CSN's students create flexible schedules with day, evening and weekend classes taught on three main campuses and multiple locations throughout Southern Nevada or online. CSN — your future starts here. CSN is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution. For more, visit www.csn.edu.

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