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For Immediate Release:

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CSN a ‘Center of Excellence’ in Cybersecurity

The designation comes from the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency

LAS VEGAS, April 18, 2018 – The College of Southern Nevada is now among the nation’s elite colleges in the increasingly critical field of cybersecurity education.

The Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency notified CSN that its application to become a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense 2-Year Education has been approved.

CSN’s program is the only one in Nevada with such an important designation.

“To be considered one of the nation’s best in such a critical area is an important milestone for Nevada, for CSN, and for our students,” said CSN Acting President Margo Martin. “Attending CSN’s Center of Excellence, students will be assured they are receiving the highest quality education available.”

The designation was created jointly by the NSA and DHS to recognize schools that offer rigorous degree programs in information security. The goal is to reduce vulnerability in the nation’s information infrastructure by promoting higher education and research in cyber defense and producing professionals with cyber defense expertise.

Gov. Brian Sandoval has made cybersecurity a top priority in his administration. In 2017 he created the Nevada Office of Cyber Defense Coordination, which is tasked with detecting, preventing, and responding to cyber attacks.

Nevada is expected to see a 30 percent growth rate in the number of jobs requiring cybersecurity skills through 2022. CSN is poised to educate many of those professionals. The college offers two associate degrees in cybersecurity – network security and digital forensics. A certificate of achievement is also available in digital forensics.

Professor Margaret Taylor, chair of CSN’s Computer Information Technology department, said the Center of Excellence designation will make the college eligible for grants it otherwise would not be. It will also give the program’s graduates a leg up on the competition; many employers will only consider graduates of NSA/DHS-certified programs, she said.

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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