

September 2018 President's Roundtable Summary

Thank you for your attendance at my first series of roundtables. I have grouped the most commonly asked questions into a few common themes and the latest updates on those topics are listed first. I have also addressed a few additional areas of concern at the end of this document.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me by email, by phone or stop by my office if you have questions.

- **CSN's enrollment** has grown to more than 35,000 headcount and more than 19,000 FTE. The higher FTE number means more students are attending CSN full time. We believe this is at least partly because of Nevada Promise, which requires students to enroll in at least 12 credits per semester. The fact that more students are attending full time is important for a number of reasons, especially because full-time students are more likely to complete their higher education goals. When you combine credit headcount with the 12,000-plus students enrolled in workforce development programs it means that CSN is touching the lives of almost 50,000 students every semester.
- Speaking of **Nevada Promise**, we have approximately 700 students attending CSN this semester who are receiving aid from this groundbreaking last-dollar scholarship. That is very good news. What's even better is that, now that we have worked through the first year of administering this scholarship, we believe we have eliminated most of the bugs from the system and will be more efficient in the coming year. Our projections are that we will grow the number of Nevada Promise scholars significantly in the next year, perhaps as much as 60 percent. We will also engage the legislature to not only seek funding for future years, but to address administrative challenges to make this program even better.
- A report on potential **police consolidation** at the Southern Nevada higher education institutions commissioned by the Board of Regents was released this past spring. It is important to note that whatever the model that is implemented down here will not look like the model followed in northern Nevada. We are assured that any new structure will make us more safe, not less. What is being considered is combining some operations and sharing some resources. Folding one police department into another is not among the options, nor is having one institution responsible for the safety and security of the others. As of yet, there is no formal proposal being discussed, but rather simply a range of possibilities, one of which would involve creating an integrated Southern Command structure of some kind. While saving

money is important to me, as it should be to all of us, my bottom line is and always will be a safe, secure campus, including potentially improved response times and more robust training for our officers. It is important to know that the three institutions will continue having input in this process. Rest assured our voice will be heard.

- Communication between the administration and faculty as well as between staff and students, was an issue brought up during the roundtables. Please know that communications and student services will be priorities for me. I am grateful for the feedback and suggestions in both areas. Communications permeates everything we do, and it's vital that we remain accessible and transparent. Equally critical are student services and our front-line interactions. The staff members in both areas are extremely dedicated individuals who welcome any opportunity to improve.
- Our ongoing transition into a multi-campus college district continues moving forward. Patty Charlton has been doing a wonderful job as provost and vice president of the Henderson Campus, providing us a model that can be followed on the Charleston and North Las Vegas campuses. We expect to begin advertising for the provost/vice president positions on those two campuses soon, so please watch for updates from my office in the coming months.
- The Health & Sciences building planned for the Henderson Campus remains our highest priority as we prepare for next year's legislative session. This building, which is projected to cost \$70 million, would radically alter the Henderson Campus. Because we will operate it in a unique partnership with Nevada State College, this one building could house pathways for every kind of nursing career available in Southern Nevada, for example, whether they require a skills certificate, a certificate of achievement, an associate degree or a bachelor's degree. Not only will this building fundamentally change health care education in Southern Nevada, it has the potential to change health care itself by training an ever-increasing number of the best health professionals in the region. We look forward to advocating for this building, and hope you can too.
- Another high priority for us will be to finally plan for the development of the 44 acres of land slated for our Northwest Campus. We will request \$4 million in planning funds during this upcoming legislative session. This future campus is sorely needed. The northwest portion of the metro area is drastically underserved when it comes to higher education. Indeed, all of Southern Nevada needs easier access to our facilities. Planning and eventually building out the Northwest Campus is a necessary step toward

planning out the region's future, of which CSN will be an integral component.

Other important news:

- **Faculty and staff compensation.** Preparations are underway to conduct a new salary study. The vendor has been chosen and we are hoping for a report with recommendations by next spring.
- **Collective bargaining.** I have been fully informed of the history behind and the current status of the collective bargaining process currently underway. I commend Dr. Margo Martin for her hard work on this issue. We are discussing with the system office, where the issue now resides.
- **Negative press coverage.** It is a journalistic truth that bad news will always get covered more than good news. With that said, please know that our Marketing & Communications staff are consistently pushing good news out there through various channels, both internal and external. Many of these stories make it into the local media, but not all of them do. If you know of good news in your area, please let our [communications staff](#) know. We have communications ambassadors embedded throughout the college that will reach out to you.
- **Student Success Initiatives.** In the coming months you will see an increase in student success efforts, thanks in part to grants from the Lumina Foundation and Complete College America. We will be implementing meta majors in 2019 as well as incorporating more block scheduling and guided pathways, for example, expanding the first year experience, reorganizing advising and counseling, and we are working on other exciting initiatives that will make our students' journeys more streamlined. Stay tuned for more information as it develops.

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