



**James E. Rogers**  
Chancellor

**Nevada System of Higher Education**

2601 Enterprise Rd. 5550 W. Flamingo Rd., Ste. C-1  
Reno, NV 89512 Las Vegas, NV 89103  
Phone: (775) 784-4901 Phone: (702) 889-8426  
Fax: (775) 784-6520 Fax: (702) 889-8492

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 5, 2008

**TO:** NSHE Board of Regents

**FROM:** James E. Rogers  
Chancellor

**RE:** Budget Reduction Implications – Nevada State College

It is important to remember why Nevada State College was created in 2001 by the Board of Regents **on recommendation of the State Legislature**. There were two basic reasons, reasons that national higher education consultants affirmed on more than one occasion. First, Nevada students deserve to have the opportunity to be able to attend college and have choices about the type of institution that is best for them. Second, strong support from the Henderson community underscored the social and economic need for this four-year college in the **second largest city in Nevada**. Its contributions to this vibrant community continue to grow.

Nevada State College is an affordable baccalaureate institution that opens the door to more Nevada students who might otherwise not be able get the baccalaureate degree or might go out of state and never return. Its primary commitment to produce nurses and teachers that the healthcare system and K-12 need is key to its central place in public higher education in this state. If adequately funded, it will lead the way in demonstrating how higher education is essential to solving state workforce problems.

Finally, why should Nevadans have fewer choices about the type of college or university that will enable them to succeed? Every parent wants their son or daughter to have the chance to go to college and graduate. Nevada State College offers students a four-year institution that may be their best chance of graduating, a choice that is often the best one for many students.

As we all know, Nevada has far too few college graduates to support a vibrant economy and we should be thinking of expanding opportunities, not questioning their worth.

Finally, Nevada State College is working! Look at the attached letters from the City of Henderson and the Chamber of Commerce. We have begun just the type of public private partnership that is required to make education thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A committed combination of local government, business leaders and higher education has created a new college to meet the needs of a growing economy. Now is not the time to turn back the clock on this institution, which as you will see from the attached memorandum from President Fred Maryanski, is exactly what will occur if we allow further cuts to its budget.



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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**FROM:** Dr. Fred Maryanski  
**DATE:** July 30, 2008  
**RE:** Impact of Budget Cuts – Nevada State College

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While Nevada State College's enrollments have increased steadily in its 6-year history, the size of the faculty, administrative staff and classified staff has not. At the moment, almost one out of every four of the NSC's 161 budgeted positions is vacant. That percentage will increase as the state further cuts its budget and will critically impair the following offices: Office of the Registrar, Admissions & Records, Financial Aid Office, Advising and Student Accounts as well as the institution overall.

So what does this mean for the **student body** of Nevada State College who are typically working students with family responsibilities? It means that the number of course sections offered during day and evening time blocks will be reduced forcing students to either cut back on their number of working hours during the week or forcing students to reduce the number of courses in which they would enroll for the upcoming semester. NSC students who enroll in fewer courses will in all likelihood no longer be eligible to receive financial aid due to the fact that federal regulations mandate students must be enrolled in 12 credits (typically 4 courses a semester) in order to receive financial aid. Students will also find that their graduation will be delayed anywhere from one semester to two years— *and we all know that time is money*. It means that Nevada State College will close the door on the promise of access to a higher education to the citizens of Nevada who desperately need flexibility in their school schedules so they can remain in school and still take care of their families and their financial obligations.

It also means that NSC students who have a question about transcripts, grade changes, transfer of credits from one institution to another, honors, etc., will wait up to 5-10 days for a return phone call from the office of the Registrar and Admissions which has 3 staff members employed to respond to such questions from a student body of over 2200 and hundreds of prospective students. It means that Financial Aid Awards will be delayed (students already feel that financial aid is not awarded quickly enough). NSC students



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will begin the new semester without the aid they depend upon to purchase books let alone groceries or gasoline for their cars. It means that new and returning students will have to wait a week or longer to get an appointment with an advisor to select their courses, balance their working obligations and prepare for graduation.

So what does this mean for the **external constituencies** of Nevada State College? It means that professional degree programs *will be cut*. It means that extended education courses and certificates for those employees who wish to better themselves and progress in their careers *will be cut*. It means that individuals who are close to completing their degrees and need special assistance to advise them on the quickest, most efficient way to complete their degrees *will no longer receive such assistance*. It means that the number of nursing students admitted to NSC's School of Nursing *will be cut* and that the number of student teacher placements *will be reduced*. Therefore, the critical nursing and teacher shortage for which the state of Nevada is so well known will only worsen. It means that the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences will be forced to cut the general education courses that prepare all students to enter their degree programs and students will not graduate in a timely manner. It means that NSC business and psychology students will not be available to fulfill critical workforce gaps in entry level positions that are critical to the growth of the economy and Nevada will fall further behind in our ability to meet the ever-growing need for an educated workforce. It means that the institutions of higher education around the state will be severely limited in our ability to invest in Nevada's future and the future of all of our young citizens.

**Cuts are cuts.** They hurt, they impair, and they take a long time to heal. In fact, some cuts may never heal.



# HENDERSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*"Your Success is Our Business"*

590 S. Boulder Highway Henderson, Nevada 89015 702.565.8951 Fax: 702.565.3115  
 EMail: [info@hendersonchamber.com](mailto:info@hendersonchamber.com) [www.hendersonchamber.com](http://www.hendersonchamber.com)

August 1, 2008

Mr. Fred Maryanski  
 Nevada State College  
 1125 Nevada State Drive  
 Henderson, NV 89002

Dear Fred,

State-supported universities, colleges, and community colleges are powerful engines for economic growth and stability. Their importance as an economic driver to a region's growth and diversification efforts is becoming increasingly apparent as human capital plays a more pronounced role in today's knowledge- and information-based economy.

Too often we forget that higher education produces *both* public and private benefits for a community and its residents.

Consider the following trends that illustrate higher education's relationship with the economy:

- The earnings gap between the educated and non-educated workforce is widening at an increased rate as employers place more emphasis and a higher premium on knowledge-based skills.
- A person with a bachelor's degree can expect to earn approximately \$1 million more in her lifetime than a person with only a high school diploma (bachelor's degree: \$2,225,657; high school diploma: \$1,168,111).
- This increased earning potential on an individual basis collectively creates – within a given state's general population – greater economic stability and growth as tax revenues are collected from a more diversified and resource-rich population base.

Now, consider a few additional benefits listed below that flow from and are related to higher education. The extent to which these benefits are present in a community directly correlates with the community's level of investment in higher education. That is, the more a community invests in higher education, the more tangible these benefits become.

*To Promote and Support Member Businesses*

- Increased tax revenues
- Greater productivity
- Increased consumption
- Decreased reliance on government financial support
- Reduced crime rates
- Increased charitable giving/community service
- Increased quality of civic life
- Increased social cohesion and appreciation of diversity
- Improved life expectancy
- Improved quality of life for children
- Higher savings levels

State governments and their citizens make – and must continue to make – meaningful investment in higher education. As the CEO of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, an organization that represents more than 1400 businesses, I firmly believe in the power of higher education to positively change communities and individual lives. On behalf of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, I fully support Nevada State College. Now is the time to more fully invest in Nevada State College and the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alice J. Martz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "z".

Alice J. Martz  
Chief Executive Officer



**CITY OF HENDERSON**  
 240 Water Street  
 P. O. Box 95050  
 Henderson, NV 89009

August 4, 2008

Fred Maryanski, President  
 Nevada State College  
 1125 Nevada State Drive  
 Henderson, NV 89002

Dear President Maryanski,

Named the fastest growing state in America by the 2000 U.S. Census, Nevada continues to grow at a rapid pace, with most of this growth occurring in southern Nevada. According to several studies, Nevada's growth rate is anticipated to continue to lead all other states by as much as 25 years into the future.


With that continued growth, Nevada, much like the rest of the country, will continue to experience a tremendous increase in demand for higher education. The Nevada State College fills a vital need in providing those higher educational services in the state of Nevada.

As you know, the City of Henderson has been a supporter of the Nevada State College (NSC) since its inception. The NSC, the Nevada System of Higher Education, and the City of Henderson have worked closely together to create an innovative partnership that will guide the establishment of a premier 500-acre learning-living campus community – one that blends both a master-planned campus and college town with a wide range of commercial, residential, cultural and employment opportunities.

Working together we are creating an innovative new campus community that takes into account the changing landscape of higher education populations, economics and entrepreneurialism. We are developing new frameworks for creating lasting public-public and public-private partnerships, diversifying campus revenue streams through nontraditional sources and optimizing campus and community land uses for maximum shared benefit.

We are committed to the development of the Nevada State College and we look forward to continuing our working relationship with you and the Nevada System of Higher Education. Working together we hope to continue to build for the future higher education needs of our community and our state through the development of the Nevada State College.

Sincerely,



Mayor James B. Gibson  
 The City of Henderson