

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER

**1. Agenda Item Title: UNLV Medical School Update**

**Meeting Date: June 5 – 6, 2014**

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

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the University of Nevada, Reno; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada School of Medicine; and the Nevada System of Higher Education endorsed expanding and enhancing public medical education in Nevada and was originally approved by the Board at its December 2013 meeting. The Statewide Steering Committee subsequently issued a "Final Case Statement for Medical Education Expansion in Nevada" on March 12, 2014 recommending to the Board modifications to be made to the original MOU. The Case Statement specifies a new, independently accredited medical school at UNLV while growing the existing University of Nevada School of Medicine and expanding residency positions statewide. UNLV has been planning to develop a full-scale, four-year allopathic medical school that would be fully-accredited and financially sustainable. President Snyder and Provost White will inform the Board of the progress with planning the medical school at UNLV. In addition, President Snyder and Provost White will introduce the recently hired planning dean, Barbara Atkinson, to the Board.

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

This is not an action item and an informational update only on the work with planning the medical school at UNLV, including the hiring of a planning dean, Barbara Atkinson, who will also provide an overview of the process and timeline for developing the medical school.

**4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?)**

This report is consistent with keeping the Board of Regents updated and complies with President Snyder and Provost White being transparent to the Board with the planning process.

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

- The medical school at UNLV is of great interest to the University and therefore to the Board of Regents, and keeping the Board updated on the planning process and timeline is important.

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

None.

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

Do not continue to provide an update to the Board of Regents.

**8. 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\_\_\_\_  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_



UNLV



University of Nevada  
School of Medicine



## Case Statement for Medical Education Expansion in Nevada

March 12, 2014

### **Need for Public Medical Education Expansion:**

Nevada is unable to meet the current healthcare needs of its citizens. The supply of medical school graduates, as well as the number of physicians who complete their graduate medical education (GME) in the state of Nevada, is far below what is needed now and in the future when the state's population approaches four million.

While the need for medical education expansion in the State of Nevada mirrors the rest of the country, growth in population in Nevada and an underdeveloped GME infrastructure, results in fewer medical students having the opportunity to remain in the state to complete their training and to eventually serve the community. Considering the length of time involved in training a physician (e.g., seven to 12 years), the need for more doctors is so critical that the development of a second public medical school, expansion of GME, physician recruitment, and retention efforts must continue to produce quality physicians that will remain in the state, ensuring both public health and economic opportunity for all citizens. Currently, thirty-nine percent (39%) of Nevada medical school graduates stay in Nevada (22nd nationally), and if they complete a GME program in-state, the retention rate goes up to fifty-eight (58%). (Nevada ranks 6th nationally)

As previously mentioned, physicians spend between three and seven years in residency programs before they are licensed to practice medicine. Ensuring high-quality GME and fellowship programs requires the participation and coordination of many stakeholders – physicians, faculty, investigators, teaching programs and their sponsoring institutions, accreditation and professional organizations, specialty boards, and, most importantly, patients. An overall goal for the state of Nevada is to create an atmosphere of innovation and excellence in research and patient care where residents and fellows can fully realize their potential as a highly competent physician, physician-scientist, clinical investigator, or institutionally based academician.

The importance of involvement of the aforementioned stakeholders through clinical research activities advances medical science through the discovery of tomorrow's cures, while ensuring the quality and integrity of the residency programs.

Nationally, clinical research suffers from an insufficient number of clinical research-specific training programs, particularly those that incorporate formal, didactic course work in areas such

as protocol design, statistics, medical ethics, and regulatory issues. Nevada must attract talented people to the challenges of clinical research and then provide them with the critical skills that will enable them to perform first-class clinical research as it integrates with GME and fellowship programs. Continued focus on clinical research is a pathway that will lead Nevada to build healthier communities and create the future of healthcare through discovery.

**Benefits of Public Medical Education Expansion:**

The future benefits resulting from expanding both undergraduate and graduate medical education include: expanding access for underserved populations; increasing the quality of healthcare; eliminating the need for Nevada citizens to go outside of the state for healthcare; increasing economic development through the attraction of federal and private research dollars; and attracting new industries who are drawn to regions with superior healthcare that could eventually lead to Nevada being a destination for advanced medicine. Ultimately, the goal is to enhance the current prestige of the existing institutions and strengthen the new.

**Vision for Public Medical Education Expansion:**

The vision of both a healthy population and healthy economy prompted the University of Nevada, Reno; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada School of Medicine; and the Nevada System of Higher Education to drive the rapid expansion and enhancement of public medical education in Nevada. Community needs, economic impact, and effective uses of state resources are key factors in implementing this vision.

NSHE has retained consulting firm, Tripp Umbach to interactively work with all aforementioned parties to develop a comprehensive business plan, including GME planning and associated financial models for independently accredited medical schools in Las Vegas and Reno that includes full academic and clinical capacity and campus-specific leadership and infrastructure.

**Medical Education Guiding Principles:**

Public medical education expansion in Reno as well as the development of a new medical school in Las Vegas will require:

- Strong collaborative partnerships among UNSOM, UNLV, teaching hospitals, community physicians, and others across the state.
- A coordinated business plan and budget that focuses on designing and financing facilities to create full clinical and basic science teaching, and research capacity at both institutions.
- Substantial incremental state funding, over and above the current allocation to UNSOM, as well as start-up funding required for the development of a quality, independent medical school at UNLV.

- Funding current and future residency and fellowship training programs will require collaboration between the two public medical schools, hospitals, health systems, community health centers, private medical schools, and healthcare associations.
- Active engagement to the philanthropic community is necessary to gain private dollars to help support medical education expansion across the state of Nevada.

In summary the business plan will include details related to leadership, infrastructure, facilities, staffing, implementation timetable, Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation requirements, funding, and the necessary balance of undergraduate and graduate medical education among these programs to best serve the state.