

College of Southern Nevada  
Regents' Scholar Award 2014

Carlos Holguin - Biography

I am the oldest son of three children raised by a single mother. As a child I grew up in crime and poverty-stricken neighborhoods and was witness to drug abuse and violence, but seeing this caused me to strive for something more.

As a teenager I knew that there was more to life than what was given and shown to me. Luckily, I found a means to express myself: music. The discipline involved in learning an instrument kept me busy and focused on a worthy goal. Playing music caused me to realize the importance of something else--education. Along with learning new techniques on my bass, I quickly developed a yearning for learning about everything else that caught my eye in the world. I also realized education and music was the avenue for which I would create a better life for myself. That is what I'm doing now. I am pursuing my education and will graduate in Spring 2014 with an Associate's degrees in Music and Psychology.

Upon graduation, I will transfer to a four-year institution and major in performance, and minor in education. I see myself performing on-stage and inspiring countless people around the world through my personal compositions and musical abilities, just as others have inspired me.

I also hope to teach music to other young and eager musicians. Music has changed my life for the better, and I hope to have that effect on others.

As the oldest male in our household, I hold many responsibilities aside from that of my own income and education. I assist my younger siblings with homework assignments, school supplies, advice, and more. I also help my mother in and around the house however I can, whether it be buying groceries, cleaning, cooking for my brother and sister, or paying bills.

I recently quit my job so that I can focus on school. Majoring in music keeps me busy enough but I am also involved in many extracurricular activities at CSN and in our community.

Though I have a lot on my plate, I gladly take it with a smile because I know, that like tossing a pebble into the ocean, my actions will have a ripple effect and will inspire everyone in my family.

Receiving the Regent's Scholar Award would mean so much to me. As a dedicated student, it would mean that my efforts are not in vain. It would mean that my drive and persistence has made an impression on those that I look-up to and admire the most. I am extremely grateful for the nomination, as this opportunity will open new doors for me; I will do the same for those around me.

Great Basin College  
Jasmine Dulgar Regent's Award Biography

Ms. Dulgar is receiving two associate degrees this December at Great Basin College, an Associate of Arts in Agriculture Education and an Associate of Science in Natural Resources. She is on track to graduate with the Bachelor's of Arts Integrative Studies emphasis in Natural Resources in December 2014. Ms. Dulgar has always shown a high level of engagement in her course work and her studies. She reads ahead of time before class and participates during the lecture, asking questions and discussing relevant experiences pertaining to the course material. I'm always impressed with the questions she has asked, showing that she is really thinking about the course material. Ms. Dulgar persevered through a family situation that required her to complete one year of her studies from Reno, NV. She tackled a difficult family situation, worked full-time, and engrossed herself in her online studies so that she could come back to the Elko campus this year to fulfill her remaining degree requirements. Few students demonstrate such academic strength during such trying times and persevere toward their goal regardless of the obstacles in their path as Jasmine has done.

Ms. Dulgar also uses her strengths in leadership (as past state FFA officer) to benefit GBC clubs on campus. She has been past president of the GBC Agriculture Student Organization and is currently serving as secretary of the newly formed Basin Biology club here on campus. She is an excellent public speaker and does a great job engaging with high school students when she discusses her experience at Great Basin College. She is consistently performing community service, whether in the community or in the agriculture youth development events that she supports. She has set the bar very high for her professional goals and is considering graduate school when she completes the BAIS program here at GBC. I completely expect that she will achieve these professional goals and I already consider her a natural resources colleague due to the professional attitude and determination she exhibits.

## **Nevada State College 2014 Regent Scholar, Undergraduate Nominee: Josh Ranck**

Josh Ranck is a third generation native of Las Vegas, and the second of seven siblings. He has given time to many local service organizations during his life, including most recently offering two years as secretary of a mental health group specializing in substance abuse treatment. Josh has spent the last ten years in the professional world as a realtor, where he has esteemed himself through annual continuing education, earning several specific license designations. Having entered the work force straight from high school, he never planned to further his education. His decision to earn a degree came with the expectation of his first child, and was made along with his wife, who is a UNLV graduate holding both a bachelor and master's degree. Currently a college and department honors level student with a 3.8 GPA, he is pursuing a major in English, and has completed a minor in Psychology. Josh is a member of the International English Honors Society, an inaugural editor of NSC's literary journal *300 Days of Sun*. His final semester will include a multicultural-research proposal submission to the 2014 FWPCA conference and travel to the Association for Writers & Writing Program's annual conference. He plans to achieve his Ph. D. in English with a Theory emphasis, and is a prime candidate for top programs.

[Nominated by Dr. Gregory Robinson, Chair, Humanities Department]

Truckee Meadows Community College  
2014 Regents' Scholar

NSHE Nomination – Nicole Lee Biography

Nicole Lee is a wife of nineteen years, the mother of four children ranging from 11 to 17 years old, and a full-time student who will graduate from Truckee Meadows Community College in December, 2013 with an English major. She has been a member of the Alpha Pi Gamma chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society since 2011, and served as the organization's Vice President of Leadership during the Fall 2011-Spring 2012 academic year. Nicole has been on the prose editorial board of The Meadow literary magazine since 2011. She has spent the last four years mentoring and coaching high school students who meet at her house every Wednesday evening. Over 20 boys and girls attend the weekly group as they navigate life in local high schools, including TMCC high school. She has also organized and run an annual conference for teen girls, centering on the issues of self-worth, leadership and community service. The next annual conference will take place in January 2014. Her interests are not just local, but also have a global reach. She has traveled twice to the slums of Nairobi, Kenya in the summers of 2012 and 2013 to promote education and community action to the people of the Mathare Valley through Missions of Hope International, and she hopes to return in June 2014 to hold a creative writing clinic for the students of the Kiamaiko School. Throughout her time at TMCC, she has strived for excellence, maintaining a high grade point average while continuing her involvement in school functions as well as in her local community. She cites the high quality of the instructors at the college as an asset to her overall educational experience, and she is confident that she can use the knowledge gained at TMCC to pursue a variety of future possibilities.

**UNLV 2014 Regent Scholar, Graduate Nominee: David Armstrong**

David Armstrong holds an M.A. in English, a B.A. in English, and a B.F.A. in Film from Ohio University. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in UNLV's English Creative Writing program where he stands out as a truly exceptional student. David's creative writing accomplishments include: a collection of short stories, *Going Anywhere*, forthcoming in 2014 from Leapfrog Press; winner of a national competition from among more than 300 manuscripts; 20 short stories in press or soon to be; at least seven of which are winners of national contests and four more either runners-up or honorable mentions; and for his literary scholarship, he has written a very significant, deeply researched chapter on the work of Jean Rhys to be published in a collection of Palgrave/MacMillan; and an essay on Hawthorne that won the College of Liberal Arts Brooks Family/Hudgins award for Graduate Writing. Previous to his being a prestigious Black Mountain Institute (BMI) Ph.D. fellow at UNLV, David published a middle school reader on Panama. He is one of the fiction editors of *Witness*, the internationally acclaimed literary journal published by our BMI. He received exceptional marks teaching World Literature and advanced creative writing workshops to our undergraduates. No other student in this program has achieved as much. He is active in many campus and community organizations. An example: he volunteers as a Peer Writing coach for the "Word-It-Project" at The Caring Place, a program of the Nevada childhood cancer foundation mentoring children being treated for and recovering from childhood cancers. His already nationally recognized talents as a writer and his generosity as a person combined with his broad range of interests in service come together to guarantee a bright future as he intends to move into the world of higher education. David is a true scholar that UNLV is proud to put forward for this recognition.

[Nominated by Dr. Douglas Unger, Professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts]

## **UNLV 2014 Regent Scholar, Undergraduate Nominee: Brittany Radke**

Ms. Brittany Radke is a student in the Honors College pursuing both departmental and university honors majoring in Civil Engineering with a minor in solar and renewable energy. She will graduate in May 2014. Brittany has a lengthy record of research and academic activities. She participated in EPSCoR funded research and a Research Experience for Undergraduates funded by the National Science Foundation. Brittany has served in several roles on the UNLV Cement Canoe project, a national engineering student competition. She is currently immersed in a very interesting research project testing natural pozzolans in place of typical cement. These materials were used by ancient Romans but somewhere along the way they fell out of use by modern society. One of the great things about pozzolans is that they do not contribute to greenhouse gases, which typical cement products do, and they are naturally occurring, including a large deposit near Fernley, Nevada. Brittany has been an Honors 105 instructor and taught a First Year Seminar class last year. She has served as a UNLV Presidential Ambassador (only about 10 UNLV students are chosen for this honor each year) and she has been a Teaching Assistant and tutor. This year she has been active in the UNLV Solar Decathlon Team efforts. She has a lengthy history of engagement in dealing with wastewater issues and she has interned at MWH Global – a local engineering company. She does all of these things while still maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. Once Brittany graduates next spring she intends to get some work experience under her belt, take and pass the professional engineer licensing exam, and then return to UNLV for graduate school. She is a very bright student who will go very far in her field. UNLV is proud to put forward her name to be recognized for this award.

[Nominated by Dr. Nader Ghafoori, Professor, Department of Civil and environmental Engineering and Construction, Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering]

UNR Graduate  
2014 Regents' Scholar

Dan Mayes Bio

I grew up in northern Nevada and graduated from Douglas High School in 2001. Shortly afterward, I began studying at what is now Western Nevada College (WNC), where I became interested in Astronomy and Physics. In 2003 I became involved with the Jack C. Davis Observatory, and I continue to volunteer there to this day as a member of the Board of Governors. At the Davis Observatory, I have learned a lot about astronomy and astronomical instrumentation, which later became useful once I came to the university. In 2007 and 2008, I graduated from WNC and transferred to the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). In 2011, I received a Bachelor of Science in Physics. I then continued into the Physics Master's program, which is expected to be completed by May 2014. At that point, I will again continue at UNR to pursue a PhD in Physics. In 2009, as an undergraduate, I began working for the research group of Dr. Roberto Mancini, with whom I continue to work as a Graduate Research Assistant. During my time at UNR, I have also had the pleasure of being a teaching assistant for the Astronomy Instrumentation course during the first and second times the course was offered, and I have recently become an officer for the new UNR Astronomy Club.

UNR Undergraduate  
2014 Regents' Scholar

**Steven DelaCruz, Biography**

Steven DelaCruz is a junior at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he is majoring in chemical engineering and minoring in renewable energy and chemistry. A member of the university's Honors Program and a Presidential scholar, Steven has maintained a 4.0 GPA through his college career. Since his freshman year, Steven has engaged in undergraduate research in the university's SOLAR laboratory, where he examines and develops novel materials for both solar cells and solar-driven hydrogen gas generation. His successes in research include a university general undergraduate research award, a Nevada NSF EPSCoR research scholarship, and a peer-reviewed publication. In addition, Steven has studied renewable energy at the University of the Basque Country (Bilbao, Spain) and participated in an NSF-funded energy research internship at Washington University (St. Louis, MO). Born and raised in North Las Vegas, Steven indicates his interest in solar/renewable energy derives from his Nevadan pride and believes solar energy research could ultimately benefit Nevada's future environmental and economic conditions.

Steven's interest in renewable energy led him to found the Sustainable Energy Network (SEN), a student organization focused on green issues and professional development in the energy industry. Highlights of the SEN include attending an international energy conference in Las Vegas, meeting former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, and co-sponsoring two campus hydraulic fracturing awareness events. Outside of the SEN, Steven is an ambassador for the Honors Program and has served as a chapter officer for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, having represented his chapter at conferences in Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, and San Diego. Steven's academics and extracurricular have recently garnered him national recognition as a 2013 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar and the university's first Udall Scholar. Though he has accomplished much while at the university, Steven's ultimate goal is to become a university professor, continue his research in solar energy, and "expedite society's transition from fossil fuels to a more sustainable energy structure."





## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### 2014 Regents' Scholar

Ian Greenlee

After graduating from Turlock High School, I served a two year mission for my church in Mexico. I became fluent in Spanish and spent the time helping others improve their lives. This included helping others get off of addictive drugs, building homes, and helping families become stronger. Upon returning from Mexico, I began to work for Little Caesar's as a delivery driver. In the following 5 years I worked my way up in the company and became a regional supervisor. I was transferred from Turlock, California to Carson City, Nevada to oversee the opening of a new store.

I worked and grew the company for three years. I met my wife and we were married in 2010. Since the economic regression of 2008, business in the Carson City area had dropped off. I was given the choice to return back to California or be laid off. My wife and I decided that it would be a great time for me to return to school and fulfill my goal of getting my bachelor's degree. While fulfilling my prerequisites for the nursing program, I worked two jobs to pay for my school bills.

Since I have been accepted to the nursing program, I have been serving as president of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Nursing Club, and began to give back to my community by becoming a Scoutmaster. I earned my Eagle Scout while I was in high school, and felt it was a good time for me to help raise good men to improve our future. I take the troop out on camp outs monthly as well as organize service projects for the community. Currently, we are chopping firewood for families who are in need of help keeping their homes warm this winter

After receiving my associates, I plan on obtaining my bachelors and then going on to a master's degree to become a nurse practitioner. My wife and I are about to start our family and are expecting to have our first child in May. It is my hope that my education will provide a better life for my family and others.

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2201 West College Parkway • Carson City, Nevada • 89703-7399 • 775-445-4450 • FAX 775-445-3127

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