



Honorary Degree

Nomination Form

1. Degree to be Awarded:

___ Honorary Doctorate X Honorary Baccalaureate ___ Honorary Associate

2. Please state the name and address of your nominee for an Honorary Degree.

John R. Pryor c/o GBCF

1500 College Parkway

Elko, NV 89801

3. Honorary degrees shall be awarded to persons who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the quality of academic programs and academic life at one of the NSHE's institutions. Persons currently holding public elected office are not eligible for the degree except in extraordinary circumstances.

What are your reasons for nominating this person? (Attach additional pages, if necessary.)


Great Basin College Professor Emeritus John R. Pryor joined the faculty of what was then Northern Nevada Community College in 1981. Professor Pryor was the first of a new generation of faculty who saw the future of higher education in rural Nevada, and helped to lay the foundation for the comprehensive college that now serves 63,000 square miles of Nevada's landscape.

As an undergraduate at Williams College and later earning and MBA from the Babson Institute in Massachusetts, Pryor focused on the business of Business. After earning his degrees, he worked successfully in the private sector for many years as a financial advisor. His business savvy worked well for hundreds of clients, and as he became more successful he began to think about how he might share his knowledge and help to guide young students on a successful path as well. Desiring the pace and lifestyle of the rural west, he accepted an invitation to teach at GBC.

Pryor immediately engaged himself in the advancement of the college. He was one of the pioneers of distance education at GBC. He taught his students in the traditional classrooms, but took his work a step further, being one of the first to offer courses in a "tele-classroom," producing videos of his lectures that could be archived for access to the growing number of students who needed the flexibility of distance education. Decades later, GBC is the leading provider of distance learning course work in the state, and young faculty stand on the shoulders of Professor Pryor's foundational work.

But the classroom was only one of the places John Pryor's vision charted the course for Great Basin College. In 1983, just two years after he arrived, he suggested to the president that a foundation be established to provide support for students and the development of the college. Launching a fundraising effort by holding a yard sale on the lawn of the college, Pryor and his colleagues raised \$3,000. With that modest start, Pryor planted the seeds for one of the most successful small college foundations in the nation. With assets of \$6 million and a fundraising total which now nears \$40,000,000, Great Basin College Foundation has helped the college to remain a strong and resilient institution.

Professor Pryor retired from the faculty in 2008. He continues his commitment to GBC serving as the Treasurer of Great Basin College Foundation, a post he has held since 1987. His dedication to the students of Great Basin College is unwavering. He exemplifies the excellent educational opportunities Great Basin College can provide to its students, and we are proud to award him an honorary baccalaureate.



President

February 4, 2014
Date

Great Basin College
Institution