

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER

**1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Approval for naming the new University of Nevada, Reno Residence Hall: Great Basin Hall.**

**Meeting Date: December 3-4, 2015**

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

The Board of Regents approved at its September 2015 meeting the design and construction of a 430-bed residence hall. The new hall is being designed to meet the needs of increasing freshmen enrollment in STEM majors. The hall will include a computer lab, an innovation workroom, white board walls in the student rooms, and numerous collaboration rooms located through the building. A list of possible names was generated by a committee of faculty, staff and students. The committee was directed to suggest names that reflect a connection to the University of Nevada, Reno's history and culture, as well as the geography, flora and fauna of the state of Nevada. This would be in keeping with the names of most residential buildings at the University. Great Basin Hall met those criteria and was the top recommendation of the committee.

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

President Marc Johnson requests approval to name the new residence hall "Great Basin Hall."

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

The project is scheduled to open August 2017. Approval will allow marketing efforts to begin in fall 2016.

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

- The University is located in the Great Basin, the largest area of contiguous endorheic watersheds in North America, with all water flowing to inland lakes with no ocean access. Pyramid Lake in northern Nevada is one of the largest of these lakes in the Great Basin.
- Reno is the largest Nevada city within the Great Basin, and second largest in the basin.
- The western boundary of the Great Basin is the nearby Sierra Nevada mountain range.
- Nevada geography and plant life is a theme among many of the University's residential buildings, such as Peavine Hall named for Peavine Mountain and Manzanita Hall for the Manzanita bush common to Northern Nevada.
- The name reflects the area in which significant research by UNR is conducted.
- It was the top naming recommendation of the committee. Members included faculty, staff and student leaders.

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

- None

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

- None

**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 #\_\_\_\_
- X Other: Consistent With Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # 1 Section #2
- X Fiscal Impact: Yes\_\_\_\_ No \_\_X\_\_  
Explain:\_\_\_\_\_