

Honorary Degree

Nomination Form

| = | Degree to be Awarded: |
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| | X Honorary Doctorate Honorary Baccalaureate Honorary Associate |
| | Please state the name and address of your nominee for an Honorary Degree. |
| _ | Diana L. Bennett |
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| | 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 exce extraordinary circumstances. What are your reasons for nominating this person? (Attach additional pages, if necessary.) See attached |
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| | President Date |
| | University of Nevada, Las Vegas Institution |

(B/R 3/03; Added 6/05)

Diana L. Bennett is the CEO and co-founder of Paragon Gaming, a developer and operator of gaming-based properties. Ms. Bennett is a second-generation casino operator and one of the most effective and respected executives in the gaming industry today.

After attending Arizona State University, Bennett's career started under the tutelage of her father, industry icon William Bennett. She opened and operated multiple gaming operations at landmark gaming properties as an executive of Circus Circus Enterprises' leadership team, including the Luxor and Excalibur. She led the merger of the executive staffs of the Edgewater Hotel and Casino and the Colorado Belle Hotel and Casino in Laughlin. She also directed the purchase, takeover, and integration of new management for the Sahara Hotel and Casino. She and her business partner have created a company that developed, constructed, and now manages the River Cree Hotel and Resort on the River Cree Reserve outside of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This was the first-ever First Nations gaming property in Alberta. Paragon also owns the Edgewater Casino in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and the Eagle River Casino Travel Plaza in Whitecourt, Alberta.

Bennett has been personally responsible for the management of multiple casino operations and is licensed in 45 jurisdictions. She is recognized as an expert in establishing gaming systems, and served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Casino Data Systems (CDS), where she planned, grew and managed one of the major gaming manufacturers in North America. Ms. Bennett has an unparalleled passion for the gaming industry. Since 1994, she has been named repeatedly to the Outstanding Women of Nevada. In 2007 she was named as one of the Top Ten Great Women of Gaming in the U.S.

Ms. Bennett is President of the Bennett Family Foundation and supports various organizations aimed at improving education in Nevada. She was recognized for her support of the I Have a Dream Foundation in 2009, an organization whose mission is to break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment by producing high school graduates who are poised for post-secondary education, employment and life success as independent, community minded leaders.

Ms. Bennett and her family are long-time supporters of UNLV and have given in excess of \$11 million. The UNLV preschool honors the memory of Diana's mother and is named the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center. Ms. Bennett serves as Chair of the Founder's Circle for the Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter Black Mountain Institute at UNLV, where she has a fellowship in her name. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the UNLV Foundation Board and serves as treasurer.

In addition, Ms. Bennett is co-founder of the Greater Good Council, an organization of philanthropic leaders from all walks of life in Southern Nevada; sponsor of The Center in Las Vegas; and the co-founder and Vice President of the Nevada chapter of the International Women's Forum. Ms. Bennett serves as Chair of the National Children's Miracle Network Telethon for the University Medical Center Foundation. She is a member of the Boards of Directors for The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, Noah's House, and Three Square, in addition to serving on the boards of the I Have a Dream Foundation and the Las Vegas Springs' Preserve. She supports youth and women's organizations such as Child Focus, an affiliate of St. Jude's Ranch; the Nevada Children's Center; and Opportunity Village. Ms. Bennett is a philanthropist whose impact is felt across UNLV, Las Vegas, the state of Nevada, and beyond.