

STATE OF NEVADA
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
401 S. CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-4747
Fax No.: (775) 684-6600



LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION (775) 684-6800
STEVE YEAGER, *Assemblyman, Chair*
Brenda J. Erdoes, *Director, Secretary*

INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE (775) 684-6821
MOISES DENIS, *Senator, Chair*
Sarah Coffman, *Fiscal Analyst*
Wayne Thorley, *Fiscal Analyst*

BRENDA J. ERDOES, *Director*
(775) 684-6800

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL (775) 684-6830
DANIEL L. CROSSMAN, *Legislative Auditor* (775) 684-6815
NICOLAS C. ANTHONY, *Research Director* (775) 684-6825

October 25, 2022

Dale A. R. Erquiaga
Acting Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education
4300 S. Maryland Pkwy.
Las Vegas, NV 89119-7530

Dear Acting Chancellor Erquiaga:

The [Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education](#) (COE) spent a significant amount of time during the 2021–2022 Interim considering recommendations made by a variety of stakeholders to positively impact education in Nevada. A recurrent topic of interest for the Committee is higher education. During the COE's work session on August 30, 2022, the members identified multiple areas that they unanimously agreed should be priority items for consideration by the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). Specifically, they endorsed the following recommendations:

- Encourage strengthening the workforce pipeline supporting those in the deaf and hard of hearing community, focusing especially on qualified interpreters for the health care, education, and government services industries. For example, additional qualified interpreters are needed for school-based personnel serving pupils who are deaf and hard of hearing, including speech pathologists. Additional qualified professionals are needed in the high school environment to help pupils who are deaf and hard of hearing experience social and work opportunities;
- Clarify the missions of two- and four-year colleges, including, but not limited to, aligning service zones to reflect Nevada's economic geography, elevating Great Basin College to a full four-year status, and deterring mission creep;
- Encourage a presentation to the 2023–2024 COE regarding its report on the Workforce Incentive Grant program, including key metrics such as the number of students participating in the program, the demographic and socioeconomic breakdown of program participants, the number of students in the program who have earned a certificate or degree, and the persistence rate of program recipients; and

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- Urge NSHE to conduct a study concerning Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) policies and challenges specific to junior colleges. Specifically, this study should investigate NIL issues relating, but not limited to, resources and personnel at junior colleges and funding and opportunities for NIL deals for junior college student athletes. The [Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning the Use of the Name, Image, and Likeness of a Student Athlete](#) (Student Athlete Committee) studied various NIL issues and reported its findings to the COE, leading to this recommendation. As testimony from the Student Athlete Committee indicated that student athlete transfer policies, especially concerning NIL, can be contradictory and difficult between junior colleges and other institutions, the study should also investigate concerns and challenges with student athlete transfers between two- and four-year colleges and universities. If such a study is conducted, NSHE may submit a report of the results of the study, including any recommendations for legislation, to the COE on or before June 30, 2024.

Thank you for considering the COE's recommendations and for your continued passion and work in furthering our education system. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact the Committee's policy analysts, Jen Sturm, Jennifer Ruedy, or Alex Drozdoff at (775) 684-6825 or jen.sturm@lcb.state.nv.us; JRuedy@lcb.state.nv.us; or Alex.Drozdoff@lcb.state.nv.us.

Sincerely,

Senator Moises (Mo) Denis, Chair
Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education

MD/jk:W222990

cc: Crystal Abba, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, NSHE
Adam Drost, Principal Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB
Asher Killian, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB
Jennifer Ruedy, Deputy Research Director, Research Division, LCB
Jen Sturm, Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB
Alex Drozdoff, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB