

**Veterinary Nursing Program****Charleston Campus**

Sort Code WC-B125H  
6375 West Charleston Boulevard  
Las Vegas, NV 89146-1164

Tel: 702.651.5852  
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Interim Finance Committee  
The Nevada State Legislature

June 12, 2024

Members of the Committee,

When I heard about the opportunity to submit a letter for public comment regarding a potential cooperative agreement between the State of Nevada and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Utah State University in Logan, UT, facilitated through the Nevada WICHE program, I wanted to voice my support and opinion regarding the value of this agreement. A little background about myself will hopefully explain where I have obtained my feelings about this opportunity, not just for individuals but also for the State of Nevada.

I started down the path of the veterinary profession about 46 years ago when I was a college student in northern Utah. I wanted to go to Veterinary College but at the time the out-of-state tuition at the colleges was fairly steep (no comparison to today's costs however). Utah, at the time, was a part of the WICHE program involving multiple states with and without colleges of veterinary medicine. I was fortunate to be able to take advantage of that program and I became a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Since then, I practiced in Utah, Nevada, and California before going back to school for a surgical residency. I have since taught veterinary surgery at Colorado State University, University of Georgia, Virginia Tech and Kansas State University. After leaving Kansas State I moved back to Nevada and became the Program Director for Veterinary Nursing at the College of Southern Nevada. Amidst all my travels and experiences I raised a family and one of my sons decided that he wanted to also enter the veterinary profession. He followed essentially the same path and entered into the Nevada WICHE program and attended veterinary college in a WICHE cooperative state. He has now completed veterinary college and advanced training and he is now a veterinary surgical specialist, also practicing in Nevada.

As you can see my experiences with the WICHE program have benefited me and my family greatly! I also like to think that we have also been able to contribute in some small way to the people of and the State of Nevada. Finding a profession that allows me to follow a passion and simultaneously serve people and animals has been one of my greatest successes. The WICHE program has helped make that possible. Since I have returned to Nevada, I have seen former veterinary nursing students go on to veterinary colleges and then become practicing veterinarians again thanks to the WICHE program. Sadly, I have also seen individuals that wanted to follow the same profession but were not able to because the number of students that WICHE could support and the number of seats at WICHE cooperating colleges was limited.



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The need for veterinary professionals in the state is great! But I feel from years of personal experience, that a program like WICHE is valuable in as much as it can help fulfill that need, but also help Nevada students achieve professional dreams, provide an indispensable service to the people, animals, and the state of Nevada!

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments. As you can see I firmly support this opportunity and would hope that with your efforts today we can make this possible.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Olsen", written in a cursive style.

Dennis Olsen, DVM MS  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons  
Program Director, Veterinary Nursing  
College of Southern Nevada