

**A RESOLUTION BY
THE ELKO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
IN CONJUNCTION WITH CITIES, COUNTIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ENTITIES ACROSS NEVADA IN SUPPORT OF
POST SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY
GREAT BASIN COLLEGE
TO NEVADA CITIZENS IN RURAL NEVADA**

WHEREAS, the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Strategic Directions appropriately includes a strategic initiative to “Ensure that Higher Education is Accessible and Affordable for **All Nevadans**”; and

WHEREAS, Great Basin College serves rural Nevada citizens with a variety of Bachelor and Associate Degrees and Certificate Programs with classroom facilities including interactive video classes and internet classes in Elko, Eureka, Lander, Humboldt, White Pine and Nye Counties; and

WHEREAS, Western Nevada College serves rural Nevada citizens with a variety of Associate Degrees and Certificate Programs with its Fallon and Douglas campuses;

WHEREAS, Great Basin College and Western Nevada College provide, over vast geographical distances, higher educational opportunities in rural Nevada that enriches students with knowledge and skills for employment and life enhancement that helps them become productive and engaged citizens; and

WHEREAS, Elko County supports post secondary education opportunities for the benefit of our citizens as well as economic development, businesses and industry; and

WHEREAS, many citizens, due to distance and financial constraints, would be unable to attain higher education opportunities without the continuation of innovative programs for learning provided by Great Basin College; and

WHEREAS, Great Basin College through inventive use of technology and administrative direction was able to expand higher education services to Nye County as part of its mission to provide quality post secondary education services in the rural areas of Nevada and could potentially expand to other rural areas of the State if reasonable funding is available; and

WHEREAS, Elko County acknowledges the great economic contributions of metropolitan areas in our State while stating that the preliminary results of an internal study indicates that rural Nevada contributions to the State General Fund are comparable to metropolitan areas on a “per capita” basis; and

WHEREAS, previous funding reductions have hampered the mission of Great Basin College to provide quality post secondary education services to rural areas of our State; and systematic cutbacks to the Fallon Campus of the Western Nevada College in Churchill County over the last decade have seriously impacted class offerings, enrollment and staffing; and Lincoln, Pershing, Mineral and Esmeralda Counties have seen reductions that effectively provide no post secondary education services; and

WHEREAS, severe funding reduction proposals of 30 to 34 percent will cause catastrophic loss of life-changing educational services provided by Great Basin College and Western Nevada College to our citizens across the rural areas our Great State.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Elko County Board of Commissioners joins with Cities, Counties and Local Government Entities across our Great State in support of efforts to assist rural institutions of higher learning in their mission to provide quality post secondary education services to Rural Nevada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Elko County Board of Commissioners does not support severe funding reductions to the rural post secondary education budgets and encourages the Governor, the Nevada Legislature and the Nevada Board of Regents to consider the importance of rural higher education services to students that may not be able to seek other higher education options due to financial and long geographical distance considerations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in efforts to ensure access to higher education services for all Nevadans, the concept of a designated Community College to service the needs of the rural areas of our State including a specific item in the State Budget should be strongly considered.

PROPOSED by Commissioner

SECONDED by Commissioner

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this 22nd day of August 2012.