



**NEVADA LEGISLATURE**  
**COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INTERIM STUDY CONCERNING**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGES' SUBCOMMITTEE ON**  
**ACADEMICS AND WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT**  
**(Senate Bill 391, Chapter 494, *Statutes of Nevada 2013*)**

**SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT**

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The first meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges' Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, at 3:45 p.m. in Room 4412 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada and to Room 114, McMullen Hall, Great Basin College, 1500 College Parkway, Elko, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/77th2013/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio record are available through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775/684-6835).

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:**

Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair  
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske  
Assemblyman Pat Hickey  
Kevin C. Melcher, Regent, University of Nevada  
Chelsie Adams  
Vicky Van Meetren  
Umram Osambela  
Michael E. Skaggs  
Frank R. Woodbeck

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:**

Carole Vilardo

## **SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

Timothy M. Dyhr

## **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Kelly Richard, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division  
Karly O’Krent, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division  
Bryan Fernley-Gonzalez, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division  
Anne Vorderbruggen, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division  
Christina Harper, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

## **OPENING REMARKS**

- Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick, Chair, welcomed the members, guests, and staff, and asked each Subcommittee member to make brief introductory remarks, including any personal goals or expectations for the Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment.

Chair Kirkpatrick commented on the need for input from businesses, adding it is important to ensure students have the proper training, certificates, and degrees required for specific jobs.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Kirkpatrick called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.

## **REVIEW OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE’S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Kelly Richard, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, provided an overview of the duties of the Subcommittee ([Exhibit B](#)), as outlined in Senate Bill 391 (Chapter 494, *Statutes of Nevada 2013*), which established the Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges. Ms. Richard commented the full Committee must submit any bill draft requests on or before June 30, 2014, and the Subcommittee will need to submit recommendations to the full Committee before that date.

## **DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING SCHEDULE**

- Chair Kirkpatrick suggested the Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment hold meetings in February and March and submit recommendations to the full Committee at their meeting in April. She recommended full day meetings in order to accomplish the duties and goals of the Subcommittee.

Chair Kirkpatrick recommended the following agenda items: (1) testimony from one or more of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board sector councils; (2) testimony from a career and technical school or program emphasizing the positive aspects of that educational choice; and (3) discussion regarding how community colleges align with businesses in surrounding areas, including testimony from chambers of commerce and businesses regarding workforce needs. She asked Subcommittee members for recommendations for future agenda items.

- Regent Melcher recommended a report from school district superintendents regarding their working relationships with community colleges.
- Mr. Osambela suggested discussion regarding certificates recognized throughout the State and workforce investment funding issues.
- Chair Kirkpatrick voiced her interest in hearing testimony from local workforce boards on youth accountability.
- Senator Cegavske stated technical certificates issued today are not up to date. She added a certificate should ensure an individual could meet the skill and job requirements for that certificate.
- Ms. Van Meetren agreed on the need to discuss certificates. She said certificate training does not keep pace with regulation changes.
- Regent Melcher requested a report from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding dual-credit courses, career and technical programs, and workforce training in collaboration with school districts and community colleges in the State.
- Dr. Mark Curtis, President, Great Basin College (GBC), urged the Subcommittee to obtain more detail on academics and workforce alignment from each community college.
- Chair Kirkpatrick requested Dr. Curtis report on rural businesses and chambers of commerce that collaborate with GBC.
- Dr. Curtis stated he would ensure business leaders attend the next meeting. He reported, overall, students are not prepared when they graduate due to constant changes in technology. Dr. Curtis reiterated employers expect employees to be prepared for the job. He testified clinical courses and internships aid in this area. Dr. Curtis remarked the mining industry is currently providing one day a week, on-the-job training for students.
- Chair Kirkpatrick opined internships allow employers a chance to observe a student at work and to note their work ethic.

- Mr. Osambela requested a discussion on the issue of student-counselor ratios.
- Chair Kirkpatrick stated she had requested the student-counselor ratio information from the College of Southern Nevada and it should be available at the next meeting.
- Regent Melcher commented he would like other successful training programs to be identified and shared as best practice models.
- Ms. Adams requested discussion regarding regional needs and asked for information on how community colleges are distributing information about programs to the public.
- Regent Melcher added he would like to develop a better avenue to connect and collaborate with businesses.

There was discussion between Chair Kirkpatrick and Director Woodbeck regarding attempts to distribute information to businesses.

- Director Woodbeck stated he is interested in hearing from business leaders regarding their needs and how the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation can assist them.
- Chair Kirkpatrick stated members could e-mail or call with suggestions for future agenda topics. She announced the next meeting would be held on February 18, 2014, and a third meeting would be held on March 12, 2014.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Ray Bacon, Executive Director, Nevada Manufacturers Association, stated he could provide an overview from the Manufacturing Sector Council. He reported the Manufacturing Sector Council has approved national certificates that are portable and third-party validated which give value to the employer and the employee. Mr. Bacon discussed:
  - The Washoe County School District's Signature Academies, which offer career and technical courses;
  - Dual-credit programs and nationally recognized dual-credit career and technical education programs;
  - Cross-sector job skills and demands;
  - The Right Skills Now program;
  - Western Nevada College's counselor program; and
  - The Nevada Industry Excellence program.

Concluding, Mr. Bacon reiterated the importance of distributing information to business owners.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christina Harper  
Senior Research Secretary

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Kelly Richard  
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick, Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Revised Meeting Notice and Agenda” provided by Kelly Richard, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

[Exhibit B](#) is a memorandum dated January 28, 2014, to the Members of the Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges’ Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment from Kelly Richard, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB, regarding an overview of the Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges’ Subcommittee on Academics and Workforce Alignment.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits and other materials distributed at the meeting are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at [www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or telephone: 775/684-6827.