chapter one

Introduction 1

THE NSC CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Nevada State College (NSC) is one of eight institutions of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). The Nevada State Legislature in 1997 found that southern Nevada required supplemental educational opportunities. In 2002, Nevada State College admitted its first class of students in leased facilities located in Henderson. In 2007, the College received a land transfer of 509 acres for the permanent campus. This site lies in the southeast corner and at the edge of the City of Henderson, on sloping desert lands at the foot of the McCullough mountain range.

Nevada State College is a comprehensive baccalaureate institution of higher learning. In its short life, NSC has grown in enrollment and is poised to fulfill its role in meeting the increasing demand for higher education to address the state's need for an educated and skilled workforce.

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This master plan has been prepared in order to plan for the orderly and efficient growth of the NSC cam-

pus. The campus master planning process provides an opportunity for the institution to consider its roots, assess its current condition, and articulate a vision for its future. The process and resulting plan also support future decision-making by identifying the physical resources that will be needed to further the College's mission and goals, and providing the framework to guide facilities and resources decisions. This is particularly important in the case of a new campus, where the significant investment needed to establish and grow the institution must be managed in a timely but careful manner.

This document addresses the campus site, anticipated program, projected facility needs, and the supporting infrastructure that will be needed to take the campus from its current enrollment to a projected long term enrollment of approximately 25,000 students (headcount).

ORGANIZATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This NSC Master Plan is organized to clearly present information regarding the existing site and context for the campus and planned programs and facilities to guide campus development. It is organized into the following chapters:

- History of Planning for Nevada State College
- The Vision for Nevada State College
- Planning Context
- The Master Plan
- Design Guidelines.

PLANNING PROCESS AND PARTICIPANTS

This master plan has been prepared by Nevada State College in close cooperation with the City of Henderson, which has been a highly supportive partner in the endeavor. Campus administrators, faculty, staff and students have invested considerable time and energy in meetings to review data, concepts and plans and have provided essential input and feedback. City of Henderson staff, the City Council, and Planning Commission have also provided background information, mapping data, ideas and feedback.

As described in Chapter 2, the planning process resulting in this document began with the transfer of land in 2002 from the Federal Bureau of Land Management to the City of Henderson, for the purpose of establishing a new higher education campus. From that time forward, the City and NSC worked closely together to execute the necessary actions to finalize transfer of the land to the College and to coordinate the many related issues associated with land use and development decisions.

NSC, for its part, worked simultaneously on two efforts. First, it began planning by evaluating the suitability of the site for various campus uses and the acreage requirements of projected enrollment and facilities while also exploring the cost and financing issues associated with the long term implementation

of the campus site. At the same time, NSC undertook the design of the first permanent campus building, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Building, which was opened in the fall of 2008.

Meanwhile, the City of Henderson prepared a study of the area immediately surrounding the future campus. This resulted in the College Area Plan which established a basic land use framework for a town center and supporting uses to adjoin the campus.

Master planning for the campus site began in earnest in the fall of 2008. At this time, concurrent with the hiring of a multi-disciplinary planning team, NSC established several committees to review the progress of the work. These committees included representatives from the College, the City, and the community and were organized to address land use, finance, infrastructure and sustainability. These committees met frequently during a period of over one year. In addition, a core steering committee, consisting of senior NSC administrators and senior city staff directed and reviewed the technical work on an ongoing basis. The membership of each of these committees is listed in Appendix A of this document.