

DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR NSC

In 1997, as a result of Nevada's explosive population growth, the Nevada Legislature created the Southern Nevada Strategic Planning Authority to study Nevada's infrastructure needs. The authority's findings clearly demonstrated that the state's higher education sector required additional facilities.

As a result of the authority's findings, the Nevada Legislature in 1999 appropriated \$500,000 to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether a four-year state college in Southern Nevada warranted further consideration. The committee tasked with this study conducted extensive market research and outreach in examining the feasibility of establishing a new state college.

The committee's findings articulated, in no uncertain terms, the degree to which Nevada's public higher education system was unable to keep pace with rising demand for higher education opportunities. Some of the committee's findings included the following statistics:

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- Out of 280 metropolitan areas, Las Vegas ranked first in the percentage of population change (83.3 percent increase) between 1990 and 2000.
- Out of those same 280 metropolitan areas, Las Vegas ranked 32 in population size with a population of nearly 1.6 million residents.
- Of the 40 largest metropolitan areas, 38 had three-tier higher education systems. Three-tier systems have at least one institution that emphasizes associate's degrees (community or junior college); one institution that emphasizes bachelor's degrees (state college); and one institution that emphasizes graduate degrees (university).
- Las Vegas was one of two metropolitan areas that did not have a three tier system and it was the only area that did not have a separate baccalaureate institution.
- From 1991-1992 to 1996-1997, the number of public high school graduates in Nevada increased by 28.2 percent, compared to the national median of 5.6 percent.
- Clark County has added an average of 1.5 high schools per year between 1989 and 2001.
- Nevada high school graduates are projected to increase by 41 percent from 2000 to 2010.
- Nevada has the lowest percentage in the nation of high school graduates going on to college. In 1996, the national average for the high school to college continuation rate was 59 percent. Nevada's average was 39 percent.
- Of the 15 Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) states, Nevada ranks last in the number of residents (25 and older) who hold a bachelor's degree as their highest degree.

Following the completion of the committee's study, the Nevada Board of Regents, in December 1999, accepted the recommendations of the committee to begin planning for a state college in the City of Henderson.

In May 2001, the Nevada Legislature supported the Nevada Board of Regents' decision to establish a new state college by approving approximately \$13 million in capital expenditures and \$4.4 million (\$3.75 million in state general funds and \$650,000 from student registration fees) for operations for the College's inaugural class in the fall of 2002.

View from the Liberal Arts and Sciences Building looking south.





(above)
The NSC site with Black Mountain
in the distance.



(right)
Sunset over the McCullough Range.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF HENDERSON

One of the NSC's greatest assets is its strong partnership with the City of Henderson. This partnership began as a result of the city's active participation with the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents in securing a physical site for the College.

In 2003, the City of Henderson and the Nevada System Higher Education (NSHE) entered into an agreement whereby they would implement the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 of the United States Congress that provided for the conveyance of land for the purpose of developing the College's physical campus. In 2007, the City of Henderson, NSC, and the NSHE entered into a revised interlocal agreement in preparation for the complete conveyance of the 509-acre campus site from the City's holdings to NSHE control.

In essence, the 2007 interlocal agreement ensures a continuing partnership between the College and the City. Both parties agreed to collaborate on the development of the college master plan which would contain design and development standards in sufficient detail to insure quality campus development and a seamless interface with the city's neighboring parcels, particularly the proposed commercial, mixed-use, and transit-oriented developments directly adjacent to the north side of campus as identified in the city's College Area Plan. In addition, campus design standards would reflect the "Guiding Principles" associated with the College Area Plan.

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MILESTONES

Within the space of seven years since accepting its first class, Nevada State College has experienced significant growth and has solidified itself as an integral member of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

1997

In June, the Nevada Legislature commissions a study to assess the educational needs of Southern Nevada's population.

1999

In December, the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, acting upon the recommendations of the feasibility study, appoints Dr. Richard Moore as the Founding President of Nevada State College.

2000

In February, the Board of Regents and officials from the City of Henderson propose a college site in Henderson, Nevada. The Board of Regents also approve the University of Nevada, Reno as NSC's sponsoring institution in May. Towards the close of 2000, the Board of Regents creates three community task forces to aid in the planning and development of the College.

2001

In April, the Board of Regents accepts the task forces' recommendations, which include the mission of



The first Nevada State College graduating class in 2004.



Nevada State College. In June, the Legislature funds NSC for the 2002-2003 fiscal year, and the NSC Foundation raises funds for the ongoing operational costs of the College through July 1, 2002.

2002

Dr. Christine Chairsell becomes the College's acting president following President Moore's decision to return to the classroom. In September, NSC opens its doors for the first time to 177 students for the start of fall semester. In October, Kerry Romesburg becomes NSC's second president.

2003

In June, NSC begins its initial campus master planning and programming efforts.

2004

May heralds a momentous occasion for NSC, as the College celebrates its first commencement ceremony with a class of 13 graduates. NSC begins its self-study for candidacy status under the auspices of the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities. As 2004 comes to a close, the Board of Regents select Dr. Fred Maryanski as NSC's third president. Under the leadership of President Maryanski, the College further solidifies its standing as Nevada's first four-year college.

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2005

In June, the Nevada Legislature appropriates approximately \$22 million in operating funds to Nevada State College, as well as \$9 million in capital funding for the Liberal Arts and Sciences building, the College's first permanent building. In September, NSC's enrollment climbs to 1,557 students for the fall semester.

2006

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities grants NSC candidacy for accreditation status in July. NSC's enrollment continues to rise with nearly 2,000 students enrolled for classes for fall semester.

2007

As NSC experiences rapid growth, the NSC campus community and state and local dignitaries in May gather for the groundbreaking ceremony of the Liberal Arts and Sciences building, the College's first permanent facility to be located on the College's 509-acre site.

In July, NSC welcomes Dr. Lesley DiMare as Provost. Dr. DiMare begins work to the development of the College's undergraduate curriculum.

With an eye towards Nevada's nursing shortage, the Nevada State Legislature appropriates \$3.5 million in August to NSC to begin design of a Nursing and Science building, a 60,000 sq. ft. facility designed to increase the number of nurses in Nevada.



The May 2007 groundbreaking for the Liberal Arts & Sciences Building.



In 2008, the Liberal Arts & Sciences Building opens.

President Maryanski's vision for the College's campus master plan comes closer to reality with the completion and approval of conceptual drawings that lay out the framework for a campus that supports 25,000 students.

2008

On March 4th, NSC celebrates its 5th anniversary as the state's first four-year public college. More than 250 community leaders and College faculty and staff gather at the Green Valley Ranch Resort & Spa to honor this historic occasion.

Students of NSC's Class of '08 receive their degrees at May's commencement ceremony. The Class of '08 eclipses NSC's first graduating class by graduating more than 170 students.

As the fall semester begins, NSC ushers in a new era with the opening of the Liberal Arts and Sciences building. The opening of the building signifies an important milestone in NSC's young history.

In the Fall of 2008, a comprehensive master plan process commences, resulting in this document.

2009

In September, NSC experiences a 20% increase in student enrollment, which pushes campus enrollment to over 2,500 students.

In December, the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents approve the College's institutional strategic plan, which outlines the institution's strategic objectives through 2014.

