

Nevada System of Higher Education
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Commissioner Rory Reid
Clark County Commission 183 Harvard Ct.
Henderson, NV 89074-0918

December 12, 2007

Dear Commissioner Reid:

The College of Southern Nevada is a crucial part of the future cultural and economic success of Southern Nevada. I am sure you agree.

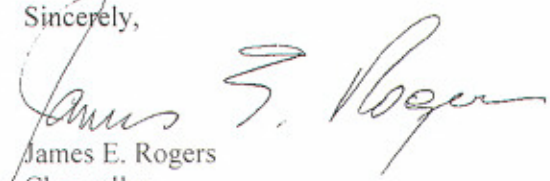
As you know, the Nevada System of Higher Education is under funded and recent shortfalls in Nevada's sales tax revenue have caused Governor Gibbons to request a reduction in the budgets of all eight institutions of the System. The impact on the College of Southern Nevada, a school with one million alums and 40,000 present students (it is the third largest community college in the United States), will surely be damaging. These cuts will most severely impact minorities, as CSN has the greatest percentage of minority students in the System. The President of the College has informed me that it is impossible to implement cuts without reducing the college's mission of training nurses and others requiring similar skills and also providing workers new and valuable careers so they can be successful in a changing economic, cultural and social environment. A community college is best equipped to provide this type of training and education to serve the needs of the city and county's citizens.

It is my considered opinion that the stability of higher education, especially the community colleges, whose mission is primarily to serve the cities and counties in which they function, SHOULD NOT BE LEFT SOLELY in the hands of the Nevada state government.

I believe you should consider helping ensure the financial health of the College of Southern Nevada. I am well aware of the many challenges and functions that local government already performs. Local government, the government closest to the people, is already on the front lines of many community challenges and I applaud you for your efforts. However, the residents of your communities must be able to look to you for support of your local community college whose mission is to EDUCATE THE RESIDENTS OF YOUR COUNTY. Please look at the models like that in the State of Arizona where community colleges are financially supported by the counties they serve. I enclose a chart on other states' support of community colleges by local governments.

I will do whatever you ask me to do to solve the under funding of the College of Southern Nevada and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,


James E. Rogers
Chancellor

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