

The Case for a New College Governance Structure in Nevada: Integrating Higher Education with Economic Development

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The Case for a New College Governance Structure in Nevada provides a governance model that integrates higher education with economic development. Specifically the authors, in response to a call for recommendations by the Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Community Colleges (SB 391), propose a governance model that is evidence-based and constitutionally sound to achieve Nevada's economic development goals. The authors propose a separate tier of governance for two- and four-year colleges.

The complete policy brief is available at <http://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/50/LincyInstitute-TheCaseForANewCollegeGovernanceStructureInNevada.pdf>

The policy brief DOES NOT propose:

- any existing public college and university be dismantled;
- two- and four-year colleges be put under the exclusive control of municipal or county governments;
- local resources replace funding from the state general fund for any existing public college or universities; nor
- the creation of a larger administrative bureaucracy than presently exists.

The policy brief DOES propose:

- to maintain the constitutionally created Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to provide governance exclusively for UNLV, UNR and DRI;
- the creation of Assembly and Senate Higher Education committees to provide oversight and funding for all public higher education;
- a two-tier structure that extends Nevada's GOED framework, specifically the restructuring of the current higher education state agency (Nevada System of Higher Education) to include instead:
 - the creation of the University of Nevada System Office (UNSO) to provide administrative support for the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada and
 - the creation of the Nevada Office of Higher Education (NOHE) to coordinate individual boards for two- and four-year state colleges;
- the Legislature appoint members to governance boards for two- and four-year state colleges (one board per college), including one student representative for each board; and
- college governance boards can hire and fire presidents and shape college priorities and workforce alignment.

It is a budget neutral recommendation and recommends that the current higher education state agency be restructured as UNSO and NOHE. These agencies would provide administrative support to the appropriate college governing boards.