

# UNLV Best Teaching Practices Expo

Thursday, January 19, 2017

Student Union Ballroom A

12:00 - 1:30 pm

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**Urban Studies Program, School of Public Policy and Leadership**

## **The teaching practice and the need it addresses:**

- Provides students from all disciplines with **STEM experience** and appreciation of their **local natural resources** through a variety of **field activities, communication** with professional scientists and educators at local agencies/organizations and deeper **community involvement**.
- The Las Vegas Wash **isn't** a "natural" system or a typical wadeable stream, **but**, its size, permanence, uniqueness and proximity to campus (~ 7 miles from UNLV) make it an ideal **natural classroom and laboratory**.
- Demonstrates the **integration** of human water use and interaction with our local water resources across the valley as it culminates in this distinctive urban desert stream system.

## **Evidence this practice benefits UNLV students:**

ENV 360 (Environmental Assessment Methods) students have worked with **Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)** biologists on projects including:

- Evaluation of revegetation ('Green-Up') efforts*
- Analysis of the Las Vegas Wash cottonwood revegetation area*

And on small group/class projects at the **Clark County Wetlands Park**:

- Qualitative site assessment of terrestrial and wetland sites*
- Evaluation of soils and hydrology*

## **Resources and where to find them:**

**Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee**

Website: [https://www.lvwash.org/html/what\\_index.html](https://www.lvwash.org/html/what_index.html)

Contact: Jason Eckberg, SNWA Biologist II ([jason.eckberg@snwa.com](mailto:jason.eckberg@snwa.com))

**Clark County Wetlands Park**

Website: <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/parks/Pages/cc-wetlands-park-homepage.aspx>

Contact: Ben Jurand, Education Program Supervisor ([ben.jurand@clarkcountynv.gov](mailto:ben.jurand@clarkcountynv.gov))

## **How other UNLV teachers might adopt this practice**

- Scientists and educators at the Clark County Wetlands Park and Southern Nevada Water Authority encourage the development of new professional relationships with UNLV faculty and students. Contact above or Erica Tietjen ([erica.tietjen@unlv.edu](mailto:erica.tietjen@unlv.edu)) for more information.