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# BUILDING NEVADA'S FUTURE:

## A Master Plan for Higher Education in Nevada

April 2002



UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NEVADA

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Six over-arching, interrelated goals are established for the University and Community College System of Nevada to support Nevada's growth and development as a state:

- **Goal 1:** Through instruction, research, and service, higher education in Nevada will be an essential element in developing and sustaining a strong, dynamic, knowledge-based economy for Nevada.
- **Goal 2:** Nevada's system of higher education will provide consistently excellent learning experiences for its students through instruction, research, and service.
- **Goal 3:** Nevada's system of higher education will increase the overall participation and success of Nevadans enrolling in higher education at all levels of education and in all ethnic groups.
- **Goal 4:** Nevada's system of higher education will provide programs and services that address the unique educational needs of a highly diverse and non-traditional population.
- **Goal 5:** Higher education will increase partnerships with the K-12 system to provide the cooperative delivery of education from pre-kindergarten through graduate education (P-16).
- **Goal 6:** Higher education in Nevada will be instrumental in advancing society's objectives and enriching the lives of Nevada's citizens.

These goals are ambitious and establish a roadmap for the future for higher education. Continuous progress toward the goals will be expected, measured, and demonstrated. The goals are not stated in priority order and no single goal stands alone: each is inextricably linked with the others in a variety of ways, as seen through the targets and strategies developed for each goal. Clearly defined benchmarks will be established to measure progress toward each goal. Once benchmarks are established, they will be monitored regularly to make sure there is consistent improvement and steady advancement, both systemwide and by each institution.

The strategies are based on actions the System can take internally and with its partners to improve not only higher education but also P-16 education statewide. This master plan incorporates key findings and recommendations from a study conducted by the RAND Corporation in 2001 as well as a report by the Battelle Memorial Institute issued in 2000.

Implementation of the plan will rely on the efficient use of existing structures and institutions. The UCCSN is committed to reexamining all operations so that the most effective and efficient use is made of every available human, financial, and physical resource. Nevertheless, over the next decade Nevada's economy will require thousands more graduates of the universities, state colleges, and community colleges every year.

The current capacity and funding of the University and Community College System of Nevada is incapable of meeting the increased needs for college-educated workers in the long term. Without reform, the state will become even more dependent on individuals trained outside the state. All youth and adults in Nevada should have the opportunity to gain the postsecondary education they need for a bright economic future. A vibrant state economy in the future will also depend on