

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Seventy-sixth Session
March 21, 2011**

The joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Steven A. Horsford at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 21, 2011, in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4401, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Steven A. Horsford, Chair
Senator Sheila Leslie, Vice Chair
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske
Senator Moises (Mo) Denis
Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Senator David R. Parks
Senator Dean A. Rhoads

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, Chair
Assemblyman Marcus L. Conklin, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Paul Aizley
Assemblyman Kelvin D. Atkinson
Assemblyman David P. Bobzien
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea
Assemblyman Tom Grady
Assemblyman John Hambrick
Assemblyman Crescent Hardy
Assemblyman Pat Hickey
Assemblyman Joseph M. Hogan
Assemblyman Randy Kirner
Assemblywoman April Mastroluca

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Assemblyman John Ocegüera

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rick Combs, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Mark Krmpotic, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Marian Williams, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Erin Neff, Executive Director, ProgressNow Nevada
Kyle George, Chair, Nevada Student Alliance; President, University of Nevada,
Las Vegas Graduate and Professional Student Association
David Rapoport, President, Consolidated Students of UNLV
Jessica Lucero
Jason McGill, President, Associated Students of Western Nevada College
Sheldon Phelps, Senator, Associated Students of Western Nevada College
Stacey Shinn
Meghan Kirwin
Rachel Anderson
Marshall Johnson
Sandra Ochoa
Kristopher Komarek
Donald Mahoney
Erin Humphreys
Elliot Malin
Kim Cordy
Brandon Bishop, Speaker of the Senate, Associated Students of the University
of Nevada
Eric Thornley
America Acevedo
Emmanuelle Garcia
Nicholas Blevins
Juliana Garcia
Lydia Scherr
Sean Tory
Shaina Solomon
Samantha Haydock

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Michael Weir
Roberto A. Laris
Howard Watts III
Ikaika Regidor
Paulette Batayola, President, Great Basin College Student Government
Association; Vice Chair, Nevada Student Alliance
Alex Porter, Senator, Great Basin College Student Government Association
Kyle Haas
Jacqueline Lemback, Vice President, Great Basin College Student Government
Association
Jordan Pierce
Samuel Litman
Ayla Anderson, President, Phi Theta Kappa
Jasmine Dular, President, Agriculture Student Organization
Janae Johnson, Senator, Great Basin College Student Government Association
Casey Burke-Ruhl
Helena Inskeep
Oliver Seebald
Lisa A. McNeil
Terralee Burbank
Lea Moser, Senator, College of Liberal Arts, Associated Students of the
University of Nevada
Dalton Casan
Benjamin Dyer, President, Alpha Psi Omega
Luisa Koester
Shirley Diaz, Director of Campus Unity, Associated Students of the University of
Nevada
Christopher Dugan
Adrienne Sawyer

CHAIR HORSFORD:

I am very pleased that we are taking this opportunity as Legislators to hear from constituents. A lot has been said about this Legislative Session and the fact that we are at a crossroads here in the State of Nevada. Today, we stand at a fork in the road. We can either do what we have done for decades and follow the same path delaying decisions which has produced the same results and gotten us to the same place, or we can take a different path. This other path will require us to have some courage and conviction to take a road less traveled.

Many of the young people we will hear from today are here because they want their voices to be heard in these Legislative halls. They want their representatives to understand that the decisions they make will determine the future of this State. Today we are focusing on higher education and the hopes, ideals and dreams of the young people here today. As I look at these young people, I also think about the fact that they represent those Nevadans without health insurance. These students represent the demographic with the highest unemployment rate in our State. And if this budget is not balanced in a more responsible way, these students could represent the group that is not given the same opportunity for a quality education. These are the decisions confronting this Legislative Session. We all understand this, but we want to hear from you because your future is Nevada's future. If we make the correct decisions for you now, Nevada's future will be much brighter.

ERIN NEFF (Executive Director, ProgressNow Nevada):

ProgressNow Nevada has 23,000 members in this State. This is not a good budget. This budget, which cuts 17 percent from higher education, is not a shared sacrifice. There is an alternative. The alternative is revenue. I am presenting for the record a petition signed by more than 2,000 Nevadans ([Exhibit C](#)) that calls for a broad-based business tax and an end to the deductions that the mining corporations take. We must see an end to where we are. This petition includes signatures from individuals from every Legislative district in our State.

The reason ProgressNow Nevada is at the table today is because a strong higher education budget is in all of our best interests. We cannot reasonably expect that business will want to move to Nevada with a weak higher education system. I am tired of hearing that you cannot raise taxes in a recession. Government is not run like a business. There is no other business whose clients increase during a recession. I am asking you to have the courage to do the right thing, not just for higher education, but for the entire State.

KYLE GEORGE (Chair, Nevada Student Alliance; President, University of Nevada, Las Vegas Graduate and Professional Student Association):

I am here representing the voices of 115,000 students in Nevada's higher education system. Today, the Nevada Student Alliance (NSA) is taking a type of action that we have never done before. As you walk around the halls today, you will see many more students than usual. From Clark County alone, 15 buses full

of students came up last night. You may have received e-mail messages announcing our departure. I hope those did not wake you up, because it is going to be a long day and you are going to need your rest. The other thing unusual about today is that these students are standing so united. This morning, I exchanged my University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) jacket with a jacket belonging to a University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) student. As anyone who has attended either school knows, this rivalry runs deep and it would take a lot for me to wear a UNR jacket. This jacket is symbolic of where we stand. Today, for the first time, we have representatives from every institution of higher education in the State of Nevada here to speak to you about education funding. We are doing this because the system is currently broken. For too long, the State's budget has been balanced on the backs of students. There has been a tax in place, despite what anti-tax advocates have said. The reality is that there is a selective tax placed on students in the form of tuition and fee increases. Today we say "no more."

The State must take a stand that is completely balanced and look at both cuts and revenue solutions. For the past three years, we have stood before the Board of Regents and accepted the tuition and fee increases. We do not look it, but we understand that it is part of shared sacrifice. With that said, shared sacrifice should apply to all citizens in this State, not just human citizens, but corporate citizens as well. Today, NSA calls upon you to restore funding to the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), restore funding to education and explore all revenue options.

DAVID RAPOPORT (President, Consolidated Students of UNLV):

The Consolidated Students of UNLV represents the undergraduate students of the University. I would like to echo Mr. George's statements and give you a brief time line of our plan today. At approximately 11:45 p.m. yesterday evening, over 800 students on 15 buses left from the West Charleston Campus of the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) in Las Vegas. They are joined today by our counterparts from both rural and northern Nevada. In total, we have 23 buses with over 1,150 students here in Carson City today. We know that students have also flown and taken their personal vehicles to join us here today. At 10:00 a.m. today, we will be welcoming all students and education advocates to our Legislative Action Day in the front of the Legislative Building. Following this, at 10:45 a.m., we will be walking through the hallways to join you as you head to your first floor session of the day. We will be in the galleries

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showing our support and hoping that you take the correct action. At noon, we invite all of you, over 1,500 students and advocates from across Nevada, out to the plaza for our rally where media is expected.

We are here today to ask for a plan other than just raising tuition on the backs of students.

JESSICA LUCERO:

I am a graduate student at UNLV. As much as I enjoy coming to Carson City and respect the amount of pressure that you face, I am disappointed that we are here once again facing further cuts to higher education. The *Constitution of the State of Nevada* makes education a priority and as a priority, and as a service, the State agrees to pay for it. Education is not one of those bills that you should be able to just cut. Furthermore, you are counting not only spending, but investing, on higher education. To treat education like it is an example of living above one's means is disgusting. If you want education in this State, you have to pay for it. If this Legislature would like to cut education loose as one of the services it provides, then do so, but know that Nevada will then be the only state in our Nation not to offer affordable, quality education to its citizenry. I know you do not want to do this.

Education is the key to diversifying our economy. In the past, when push came to shove, the end result was further cuts and the dismantling of our education system. If you truly want to offer education, then let your actions here reflect that. Figure out a way to raise revenue. I know it takes a certain type of commitment to vote your conscience and represent your districts, and oftentimes these are conflicting ideologies. On the one hand, we want quality services, and on the other, we do not want to raise our taxes. But we, as citizens, cannot always see what you see, that the money is not coming in to support these services. You are in the position where the experts come to you. You should come forward with the knowledge you have and explain to your constituents the conclusions you have come to which is that the best idea is to raise revenue.

To quote Chair Horsford, who quoted Robert Frost, please take "the road less traveled."

JASON MCGILL (President, Associated Students of Western Nevada College):
I have submitted a written copy of my testimony for the record ([Exhibit D](#)), but I would like to say a few things. I am the president of a school that I am proud to call home day in and day out. Western Nevada College (WNC) has proven time and time again to be a lifesaver for many students, as well as myself. WNC's ability to serve rural students creates opportunities and in many ways creates home for those less fortunate. Cutting our education and its budget even further would not only take away this hope, but for many students it would leave them to fall through the cracks and fail. Just as quickly as WNC became a home away from home, it could very quickly become a home left abandoned. In this day and age, it may become a foreclosed home and students would need to find somewhere else to live. Nevada's students are the future, but not if we are left without a solid roof above our heads. Please think about the future you are creating for us.

SHELDON PHELPS (Senator, Associated Students of Western Nevada College):
Today is what I would consider to be one of the most defining moments of my life, speaking on behalf of the many students across Nevada who care about their education. It is vital for all of us to have an education in order to succeed in life. I come from a rural town, Silver Springs. I travel 70 miles roundtrip just to attend WNC. Furthermore, if it were not for this particular institution I would not have been able to attend college at all. It is important that we find solutions to the economic deficit we all suffer from, but education is not what needs to be cut. It is very important that we have educated people working within Nevada, especially important jobs, such as doctors, nurses, police officers, teachers, etc.

A proposed budget cut of 31 percent to NSHE is not going to benefit us as a State. What will benefit us would be preserving NSHE as is and not projecting such drastic budget cuts. The more successful students who achieve a higher education, the more individuals will be able to join the workforce boosting the economy in Nevada. Furthermore, I could be someone who makes a difference in society along with many others, however, if my education is cut, I will not be able to do so. Think of how it will affect future generations to come, along with what you would do if your children were in the same position as I am today. I have submitted a complete copy of my written testimony for the record ([Exhibit E](#)).

STACEY SHINN:

I am a graduate student at UNR and an intern at the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN). We all keep hearing about the funding cuts that need to be made. I am a social work student and my program was almost cut two weeks ago. I work in psychosocial rehabilitation and my job is slated for elimination. With all that said, I am not going to sit here and tell you not to cut my program. I want to band together with my brothers, sisters and community members across the State. Instead of fighting against each other, we need to band together. There are solutions that can save all of our programs. I am here today to ask you to please consider alternatives to cutting our essential education programs and to be open to solutions. Raising revenue would make it possible not to cut any program and save our education and health and human services. This spring, when it comes time to make decisions regarding our State's future, please consider all solutions, especially revenue increases.

MEGHAN KIRWIN:

I am a theater student pursuing a bachelor's in fine arts at UNR. Education is something that I consider invaluable. I am the first person in my family to attend college, so simply earning a degree will be a wonderful thing for me and my family. More importantly, being able to study theater, the subject I am most passionate about, at the university level is of great importance to me. There are few places where you can receive a concentrated education in your major, while also receiving an all-around exceptional education at the same time. Since I have been a student at UNR, I have had to work hard to maintain high grades to continue earning scholarships and financial aid so that I can finish my degree. I know that many other students are in the same situation, and further cuts to higher education will be a slap in the face to all of our hard work.

I am a theater major and whenever I tell someone my major, I am inevitably asked if I have a backup plan. I always confidently answer that I do not. Yes, there are other jobs that may provide more security, and yes, we do need things like science, medicine, engineering and business to sustain life. But art, theater, dance, literature and poetry define our lives. Without them the human race would be ignorant and void. I will be graduating in the spring of 2012 and many of these cuts will not directly affect me, but they affect many of my friends, peers, professors and our community. Education is not supposed to simply produce competent works, but competent, critically thinking, contributing members of society. This can only be done by maintaining a diverse curriculum

with programs highly equipped to meet the needs of students and professors. This will not be the case for future students if these budget cuts continue to be implemented. In the end, you must ask yourself this question: "would you want your child to go to college in the State of Nevada?"

CHAIR HORSFORD:

Please tell us which school you attend and which community you live in. Whether you live in a certain part of the State or came from out-of-state, I would like to get to know you better and learn what experiences brought you to college.

MR. MCGILL:

I am from Silver Springs, Nevada, and it is a 45-minute drive each way to WNC. On days like today when the weather is bad, I woke up and had to figure out how I was even going to get to the Legislature. We face those kinds of decisions every day. I am spending \$60 to \$70 in gas just to get to school, so the cost of board is very expensive for WNC students. Western Nevada College is the only hope many of us have to get a higher education. With more cuts coming down the line, those hopes begin to dwindle away. As someone who comes from Silver Springs, there is only so much hope we have. If you keep taking more away, what will we have to look forward to in the future?

MR. PHELPS:

I am from Silver Springs, Nevada. I used to live in Winnemucca and I have to drive 20 miles just to get to a grocery store. If it were not for WNC visiting my high school, I would have never thought about college. Both UNR and UNLV were out of my price range. The 45-minute drive to and from WNC is very difficult and I attend class four days a week, which adds up really quickly. Gas prices do not make things any easier. We just want to prove to you as students that our education is vital and we need it.

MS. SHINN:

I am an Illinois native and I live in Reno. I did not move here to go to UNR. I moved here for a job. Senator Leslie and Assemblyman Daly are my representatives.

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MS. KIRWIN:

I was born and raised in Reno, Nevada. I went to Catholic school for 12 years. I attended St. Albert the Great Elementary School and Bishop Manogue High School. Both of my parents have been blue-collar workers their entire lives and they made a lot of sacrifices so that I could have all the opportunities that they were unable to have. Initially, I was not sure I wanted to go to college in Nevada. I wanted to attend a theater conservatory out of State. I changed my mind when I realized there were many benefits to studying at UNR and that the school has a great theater program. I am very proud that I have been able to study at this university.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

Is Dr. Bernard still teaching in the School of Fine Arts?

MS. KIRWIN:

He has retired but he comes back as a professor emeritus to teach theater classes.

RACHEL ANDERSON:

I am a biology major and a theater minor at UNR. I was raised in Gardnerville, Nevada, just about 30 minutes south of here. While I was in high school, I was determined not to go to college in Nevada, but after learning more about Nevada's diversity and affordability, I decided to attend UNR. Education is our future. If we cut education, we will be cutting our future. I would have left Nevada for another college had UNR not offered a diverse curriculum. Because of classes like theater, dance, choir and biology, I am now a senior at UNR. The budget cuts will decrease the quality and diversity of our higher education. Even though the cuts will not directly affect me, I want to see Nevada's education system thrive for future generations. Please do not cut our education.

MARSHALL JOHNSON:

I am a student at UNR and a theater major pursuing a bachelor's of fine arts. I went to Wooster High School in Reno, Nevada, where I worked very hard and earned scholarships for my efforts. I have been studying at the University for three years. I came to UNR as a dual major in history and theater. I have worked at the same job for the past five years to pay my way through college without my parents' help. Higher education, and theater specifically, has given me a viable outlet for my creativity and passion. I hope the education I receive and

the skills I will learn will help me become a professional in my career and a critically and creatively thinking member of my society. I hope that attending UNR will give me a broader outlook of possibilities for myself and for our world. I hope that I will have a more open mind to the ideas and beliefs of others. College is a place to realize the person you want to be and to start the journey towards becoming that person. Making these detrimental cuts to our programs will only cause harm to future generations as well as ourselves.

SANDRA OCHOA:

I am a junior at UNR studying nutrition and prenursing. The budget cuts that have been proposed will impact the University and it will no longer be considered a true University. There will not be a wide variety of degrees and programs. What will be the point of the University, if not all the programs are offered? Reducing programs and increasing student tuition is not fair. For example, this semester my tuition went up over \$200. I was expecting to use that \$200 to buy books which would have been reimbursed through financial aid. I am a low-income, first-generation student and I did not hear about college until I got to high school. I was raised in the Sun Valley area of Reno and I attended Spanish Springs and North Valleys High School. I always thought going to college was out of my range because of the cost of tuition. I was afraid I would not be able to pay for college. The Millennium Scholarship has helped pay for a lot of my tuition and I have also received other financial aid. To me, higher education means that my family and I will have a brighter future. I have had the opportunity to go to college and I plan on graduating next year in May 2012. I will become a part of the working class in this economy.

If these budget cuts go through, however, I am afraid my younger brother will not be able to attend college. Being able to attend college is an extraordinary experience and everyone should have the opportunity to attend. University President Milton Glick recently spoke on the importance of a strong education and he said, "A strong higher education system is a cornerstone by which Nevada can diversify and improve its economy." Please reconsider the proposed budget cuts.

KRISTOPHER KOMAREK:

I am a graduate student at the UNR School of Social Work. I am also a Vietnam veteran and a member of the American Association of Retired Persons, Healthy Communities Coalition in Lyon County and PLAN. I also provide tax preparation

to senior citizens in Dayton, Nevada. I am here today to speak on behalf of all of those constituents, as well as myself. If having no taxes were the key to creation of businesses in the State of Nevada, we would be flooded with businesses moving here from California, Arizona and other states. This, however, is not the case. Although proponents claim the no-tax policy creates jobs, that is a complete fallacy. Balancing revenue generation with appropriate budget considerations is the only way to move this State forward. Chair Horsford has indicated that he and many members of this Committee, and of this Legislature, are willing to move this State forward by considering appropriate revenue generation. This is a tough choice, but when mining walks out of this State with billions of dollars and pays little contribution in return, it is a shame. When I graduate in 2012 or 2013, I will consider starting a business here in Nevada. However, the nature of the business, education and human services in this State will be critical in determining whether I will remain in this State as a business owner and a job creator. The climate of these sectors is up to you. No one forced you to run for the offices which you hold. You voluntarily ran for office. I ask you for the courage to step forward and oppose the Governor's Budget and to create the appropriate revenue streams that will balance this State's budget and save its infrastructure.

DONALD MAHONEY:

I am a theater major with a dance minor at UNR. I found theater and dance at a time when I had no idea what I was doing with my life. I was a part-time student at a community college, but only so that I could say I was going to school when people asked. In hindsight, I was using community college as a means to put off being a "real adult." To say I was apathetic about the future would be an understatement. However, two and one-half years ago, I experienced a personal revelation that inspired me to immediately go to my computer and drop the few random classes in which I had enrolled. Instead, I signed up for dance and theater classes. I would be lying if I did not admit that I wondered if this was just another thing on which I would fail to follow through. It was not long before I knew this was not the case. For the first time in my life, I felt something that I did not know was there had been plugged in. I finally had traction. No longer would I waste time spinning my wheels for show. The person I am today is very different than the person I was. I went from being the student who took a couple of easy classes and did just enough to maintain a B average, to being the student who takes on any and every opportunity presented to him and ends up on the Dean's List. I now spend more time on

campus in a week than I would in an entire semester before. I have been on campus for 59 of the 63 days so far in this semester. This level of passion, dedication and work ethic are things I never thought myself capable of had I not had the opportunity to experience the arts thanks to NSHE. With the guidance of the passionate and caring theater and dance faculty, I find myself pushing my thinking in ways I never would have before. I am constantly searching for more creative ways to reach my goals and overcome obstacles. I am inspired every day by my professors and, thanks to them, I look at the world around me in an entirely different light.

Before, all I did was daydream, but because of NSHE and the Department of Theater and Dance, I now have a dream. But that is just how the Department has affected me. The thing that makes us different from most other programs is that in the process of educating students, the program also engages, enlightens and entertains the community. In its 38 years, the Nevada Repertory Company has presented over 240 productions, ranging from contemporary plays to beloved classics. In just two academic years, the dance program has created and presented 50 original and restaged choreographic works. In addition, we have had eight pieces choreographed by guest choreographers from across the Country and have had four performances by guest performers at 3rd Law Dance/Theater and the Joffrey Ballet. We have also had two entire evening-length performances presented by guest companies. I have personally performed in six pieces, including the original ballet *Shanghai*, which was a collaborative effort by the entire School of Fine Arts. Because of the training I have received at UNR, I have been given the opportunity to perform at the University in Reno and around northern Nevada. I have performed in Artown with the Reno Dance Company and A.V.A. Ballet Theater. On an even larger scale, 11 students and I have been invited to perform a student choreographed performance at the American College Dance Festival in Long Beach, California. Reno has the potential to, and is on the cusp of, becoming a hub for the arts in the western United States. The greatest example of this is Artown and the effect it has had on our community. The continued success and growth of Artown would be severely hampered by the closure of the Department of Theater and Dance, which employs and trains many of the individuals who perform and create works for Artown each year. Please take this into consideration while managing the budget cuts that could lead to the closure of the Department of Fine Arts.

ERIN HUMPHREYS:

I am a student at UNR. My family and I have lived in Reno for the past 15 years. We love Reno and all it has to offer. Like some students before me, I had no intention of staying in-state to go to UNR for college. When I saw what UNR had to offer, I decided to stay, despite having many options when I graduated from Reno High School. I chose to go to UNR because of the opportunities it offered in my area of study. I am majoring in theater and enjoy the educational opportunities that the Liberal Arts College at UNR has provided me. If I am able to complete my degree in theater at UNR, I plan to stay in Reno and expand and strengthen the theatrical and artistic culture within Reno. I believe that these additions will benefit our community and will also help the city to bring in new revenue. I am here today to ask you to reconsider the magnitude of the cuts that you are making to NSHE. I have submitted a copy of my testimony ([Exhibit F](#)) for the record.

ELLIOT MALIN:

I am originally from Las Vegas and I am a freshman at UNR. I have a double major in political science and international affairs. Just this last year my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and is currently in remission. The year before that, my father lost his vision and cannot work. As you can imagine, money is extremely tight. We are currently looking at unprecedented tuition hikes. As a student, I cannot afford to go to college out of state, and now I am barely able to afford in-state tuition. The government says my family earns too much money to qualify for financial aid. They do not recognize medical bills and the high cost of insurance because my parents are ill. I also have a sister whom my parents support as well.

Education should never be cut, because without education it is impossible to diversify the economy. There are only two real industries in this State: mining and gambling. Mining walks out of this State with billions of dollars every year and does not pay its fair share of taxes. The future of our State, your children and your grandchildren rests on the shoulders of education. A college education opens up job possibilities and gives me an experience unlike any other. College is something everyone should be able to attend. With these budget cuts, access to college will be difficult for other students like me who have medical bills at home. College is something I have always looked forward to. It is a time where we are supposed to challenge ourselves more than ever. With budget cuts it will be incredibly hard for students to have this experience. I was never supposed to

stay in the State of Nevada. I almost went to the University of Oregon, but with my parents' medical bills, I stayed home and I have made the best of it. If these budget cuts go through we will not be able to do much. I have submitted a copy of my testimony ([Exhibit G](#)) for the record.

KIM CORDY:

I am from the South Bronx in New York City. I came to Nevada on vacation to visit my mother and she became ill. I stayed here and later went back to school. Education helped me help my family. I went back to school and was very excited about learning. I took a variety of classes. After earning 62 credits I was told I could become a substitute teacher. I went to apply to be a substitute and was hired the same day. My son's principal told me that if I got a license, she would help me find a job. I got my license and that principal gave me a job. I showed up for work on a Monday morning and she put me in a very special classroom, Self Contained Special Education. That classroom changed my life. At first I thought that I could not do it, but my education prepared me to do it. I am so grateful for my education and my job with the Clark County School District (CCSD).

Other important changes in my life were my History 102 class and my Communications 101 class. These classes showed me that I had a voice and that it was pivotal for me to make it heard.

I brought my son with me today. He attends Explore Knowledge Academy where they practice project-based learning. He represents the future. For the past seven years, my son has been going to school with me, staying up late with me, studying with me and helping me with projects. Through this experience, he understands that it takes hard work and discipline to succeed in school. I think budget cuts to education are no good. I work with special needs children each day and their needs are astronomical. Please do not make these cuts.

BRANDON BISHOP (Speaker of the Senate, Associated Students of the University of Nevada):

Six generations ago, my family came to the Reno area to make a start for themselves. I have always been taught that you work to put yourself through education, that you work hard to get an education and you do everything through hard work. This is something I believe in very deeply. We have

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outriced education in this State at an alarming rate. Working to put yourself through college is not something many students can do anymore. I have worked since I was 16 to pay for my education, and my parents have still had to help me out. I am lucky that I have that family support, but many of the students that I represent at UNR do not have that support. They do not have the financial means to get a higher education. I am not asking you to blindly write a blank check to NSHE. We do not have a perfect system, but together we can fix it and make it better. We can make community colleges what they should be. We can make universities and colleges what they should be. We need to cure flaws in the system and we need to focus more strongly on research. At the end of the day, we need to invest in education as a State. It is from education that we get jobs and a strong work force. There is a bright future for the State of Nevada.

ERIC THORNLEY:

I am a junior at UNR with a double major in history and international affairs. I am from Las Vegas originally and began attending UNR in 2008. I have overcome many personal obstacles to get where I am today. The University has offered me many opportunities that I did not anticipate. I would like you to imagine the path we are currently on as a linear path going forward. Over the past several years, the path has gotten rougher and we now find ourselves on the edge of a deep, black abyss with no end in sight. We can keep on going into that abyss and stick to the current budget plan. Although life may not end today because of the current plan, if we keep going, we will fall into that abyss and there will be no way out. The system will not be able to recover and we will need another huge economic boom like we saw in the 1990s to recover. We know that type of boom is no longer possible. This path will be a tragic one.

I know you are politicians with special interests and you play the political game and I respect that, but it is time to consider some long-term goals. The life and stability of the State is long term and you need to start considering that.

AMERICA ACEVEDO:

I have submitted my testimony for the record ([Exhibit H](#)), but I would like to share my story. I am a neuroscience major at UNR. I was born and raised in Reno and I hope to stay here. The first time I can remember seriously thinking about college and my future was when I was 14 and I was waiting in line with my mom at the welfare office. My mom turned to me and apologized for making

me wait with her. I remember looking up at her face and seeing the shame and disappointment etched there. I looked her in the eye and said, "Mom, one day I am going to make sure that I take care of you. I am going to make sure that you want for nothing." I made her this promise and I intend to keep it. I do everything I can do to make sure I keep this promise. Imagine my dismay when I learned that my State government is doing everything in their power to make it more difficult to keep my promise.

I am one person and I cannot describe how helpless I feel facing this terrible, vile and degrading budget. That is what this budget is, it is degrading and demeaning to anyone who has ever hoped to go to college. Approval of this budget is not just standard procedure, it is symbolic and it sends a message loud and clear: that as students, our hard work and our drive to be educated mean absolutely nothing. Our goals, our futures, our dreams and the promises we have made to ourselves, our families and anyone who has ever had faith in our success mean absolutely nothing. You are telling us that we are not worth funding. Approving this budget sends a message that you do not believe in putting money into something that improves people's lives. You are saying that personal betterment through higher education is not worth the investment. I am here to tell you that you are wrong.

We all understand the state of the economy and I understand that sacrifices will have to be made. I am asking you as Legislators to be judicious in the cuts you are going to make. We are more than just a number on a page. We are people with dreams and hopes. We are people with futures here in this State and I am asking you to remember that.

I do everything I can to keep my promise to my mom. I work three jobs. At night and on weekends, I am a server at a casino. During the week, I am a marketing intern for an insurance broker and I also work for the computer science department. I am taking 15 credits and today will be the first day I have missed class in a long time. I spend every waking moment I can in the library and I am doing everything I possibly can do to graduate, get into medical school and pay my mom's mortgage. She worries about that mortgage a lot. I am doing everything I can to keep my promise and today I am asking for your help.

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EMMANUELLE GARCIA:

I was born in Oklahoma City, but I have lived in Nevada since I was nine-months old and I consider myself a native Nevadan. I am a chemistry and political science major at UNR and I plan to apply to medical school in the fall in hopes of becoming an obstetric and gynecological physician. I work three jobs along side my sister.

Despite loving this State as much as I do, I am not sure I can stay here. This State continually takes a hack saw to its most valuable resource, education. I understand that the Governor's budget is concerned with the bottom line, yet, a student is far more valuable than whatever can be sold. Without students in the classroom generating new ideas, we will lose our future as a State. Cutting higher education by 31 percent not only affects the services offered by the University, but also every student who attends. Those who need education the most to pull them out of poverty will be the ones who are affected the most. You will be asking these students to choose between paying for their education and putting food on the table and a roof over their heads. I will be one of the students asked to make this choice.

With these cuts, you are not only letting me and my peers know that you do not value our education, but you are also saying with senseless and bureaucratic action that we are not worth it. You are telling me and my peers that those nights spent studying, cramming for that A, were in vain. You are telling my mother that her dream of seeing all four of her children in college is a waste of time. With these proposed budget cuts you are telling me that my aspirations of becoming a doctor are not worth funding. You are telling my sister that her goal of becoming a psychiatrist is not worth your time. You are telling my little brother that his dream of higher education in Nevada is not one of your priorities. You are telling my 11-year old sister that she should forget her dream of opening a veterinary practice in the only town she has ever called home, because there just was not enough funding. Worst of all, this atrocious budget tells me and my peers, the students of NSHE, that we should not be here. You are telling us to move to a different state that thinks more of their students. If you pass this budget, you will make the message loud and clear that you want nothing to do with us. We do not hear the fiscal language with which you justify your legislative action. All we hear is that you do not want Nevada teachers in Nevada schools. We hear that you are not willing to make sacrifices for Nevada's doctors to improve the lives of their fellow Nevadans. Actions, not

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words, are what we need. That is what we elected you for. And I assure you, we are worth it. I have submitted a complete copy of my testimony ([Exhibit I](#)) for the record.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

You are worth it and it is important that you be heard. By being heard, people will start to understand the message we are sending to our students through our action, or inaction, on this legislation.

CHAIRWOMAN SMITH:

Please go home and tell your mother that she has done a great job parenting.

NICHOLAS BLEVINS:

I am a fourth-year political science major and ethnic studies minor at UNR. I graduated from Rancho High School in Las Vegas, where I was born and raised. I come from a single-parent household. I am putting myself through college. I work and also have financial aid. I cannot tell you how much money I owe in student loans. My mother tells me every week how much she wishes she could help me, but she cannot. My motivation to go to school is my family and my community. I want to prove to them that going to college is possible, but with further budget cuts I do not know if I will be able to afford college. I am hoping to start my master's degree program in educational leadership and higher education administration in the fall. I want to help students get to college and help them get through it. I would love to stay in Nevada and work in our higher education system, but, the way things are now, there is no hope for me to find a job in this system. Please think about our future and students like me who want to help the next generation go to college. Our State is going to need doctors, lawyers and politicians in the future.

I have submitted my extended remarks ([Exhibit J](#)) for the record.

JULIANA GARCIA:

I was born in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and raised in Reno, Nevada. I am a student at UNR and in my third year studying to receive a bachelor's of business and accounting degree. My family and I believe that a higher education will allow for the best quality of life. Having the opportunity to chose a career that will bring me both wealth and happiness at the same time is what drives me to earn my degree. I am the first generation in my family to attend a public, four-year

university. Neither of my parents have an education. Since my freshman year, I have held two jobs. I work at the admission's and records office on campus and I serve at a restaurant in the student union. I pay my tuition completely out of my own pocket because I do not want to take out loans. I want to work my way through college and financial aid only offers me loans.

As I continue my education, however, my classes are becoming more difficult and it is becoming hard to balance work and school. This semester, I cut down my work hours and my grades went up, which better reflects my true potential. If tuition increases, I may be forced to work more, take fewer credits and delay my graduation.

College has motivated me to become more involved in my community. I volunteer weekly with Safe Embrace and give my time to others. My hope is that higher education will continue to be affordable so that people can receive an education and change the world in positive ways. I hope to become a successful accountant which will allow me to better myself, my family and the people around me. There are other alternatives to deal with the budget cuts than increasing tuition.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

Please raise your hand if you are a student who also has a job while attending school. Please note that nearly the entire room raised their hands.

LYDIA SCHERR:

I am a student at CSN and I was a student at CSN High School before that. Without the CSN High School program, I would have dropped out of Green Valley High School and would not have gone on to be an active part of my community. I now have very high hopes, standards and dreams. In school we learned about Thomas Jefferson. He said, "In order to have a democracy, we must have an educated electorate." America is a democracy up until you landscape a budget that continually stabs more deeply into the State's educational system. If hope were a person, many of you would be locked up for murder. I am the future, so are my little brothers and the other students here. Every young person who is your future, as well as the future of this great Nation. You must invest lovingly in that future if America is to remain the home of the free and the brave. In ten years, we will not recognize this planet. Whether that change is positive or negative comes from the decisions we make

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every day about what we want, and we, the people, want to be educated to a higher standard. Make today a positive decision. You are in public office to keep hope alive.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

I know your statement was rhetorical, but the fact is that we are planning to fund prisons but not your education. This budget increases the Department of Corrections budget by 11 percent from two years ago.

MS. SCHERR:

I made several rhetorical statements. My reference to landscaping was because the budget provides approximately \$100,000 for a landscaping project at the freeway entrance on Eastern Avenue which will include a number of large boulders. We are going to pay \$100,000 for rocks. We do not need more rocks, we need more brains.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

Send a letter to the Director of the Department of Transportation about those rocks.

SEAN TORY:

I am a sophomore at UNR majoring in psychology with a minor in fitness and nutrition. I am a product of CCSD and was born and raised in Las Vegas. I grew up in a single-parent home. I was lucky, because my mother provided me an education at home in addition to my education in CCSD. Whatever I did not learn at school my mother would teach me at home. My mother taught me a quote by Frederick Douglas, "Without struggle there is no progress."

I started working when I was 12 and have worked and attended school ever since. These budget cuts are offensive but I understand some of these cuts are necessary. I grew up on the Westside and I was told that I would never go to college and never become anything. I was told that I would be stuck on the Westside forever. Several years ago, I joined an organization called Alpha Men and Divas of Tomorrow which showed me that I could be a leader in this community and in this State. They told me I could go to college, make something of myself and make a positive impact on my community.

Staying in Nevada and going to UNR was not my first choice, but then I visited and noticed all the diversity on campus. The diversity attracted me to UNR. The advisors at UNR helped me to get two jobs on campus, one of which may be cut under this proposed budget. Please think about these cuts before you make them. When you start making cuts in education, you will be affecting the amount of money that goes toward diversity programs.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

They are proposing to eliminate the Center for Student Cultural Diversity (CSCD). How will that affect you? What does the center do and what services does it provide? How does it help you succeed on campus?

MR. TORY:

Yes, they are planning to cut CSCD. Our advisor, Dr. Reginald Steward, keeps CSCD going and he drives the students to keep the center alive. It is a great resource.

MR. BLEVINS:

I work at CSCD. When I was in high school, I did everything I could to prepare for college. I took all honors courses, but, when I finally arrived at UNR, I was not prepared. This is where CSCD came in. They helped me learn how to balance my personal life and academic life. They helped me figure out my financial aid and helped me catch up academically to where I needed to be. Without CSCD, I would never have been able to graduate in four years. The center does a lot of outreach to middle and high school students in order to teach them about college and how to get to UNR. We offer free tutoring to students, a computer lab and free printing. There is academic and financial aid advising. There are a number of programs that teach students about cultural diversity and help students meet one another. There is also a meeting space for clubs and students. They know that students must have a social life. You cannot just study all the time. The staff at CSCD are there to help you personally, academically and financially. They make it possible for minority students to make it through college.

MR. TORY:

I am also president and founder of an organization called Motivated, Extraordinary and Noble (M.E.N.) of Distinction. We are a very diverse group consisting of African-American, Caucasian, Mexican-American and

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Native American students. Our group works with CSCD to run programs like Start Thinking About College, the Black Leadership Conference and the Native American Leadership Conference. We bring high school students to UNR to show and teach them about diversity in college. We want students to know that there is diversity here and that we are making a difference on campus. The CSCD allows us to communicate with the community and get involved.

MS. GARCIA:

I am also a member of CSCD. Without places like CSCD, many students would be lost. Because I was a first-generation student, my parents did not know anything about college. They did not know where to point me when I had problems. The center helped me and answered my questions. They directed me toward resources and told me what I needed to do in order to succeed.

MR. TORY:

If you take CSCD away from UNR, we will lose diversity on campus. Organizations will not have a place to go and we will lose students because they will not have a place to turn to.

SHAINA SOLOMON:

I am an English and political science double major at UNLV. I am also in the honors college. My plan is to go to the William S. Boyd School of Law to fulfill my dreams of serving the public, just like yourselves. My family is here in Nevada and so is my community. I want to stay in my home State and serve throughout law school and beyond. I am here today to ask you not to dismantle the law school as is in the current budget.

I also have a little sister and she is planning to attend UNLV in 2012. By eliminating so much funding to UNLV, only the remnants of a once excellent university will remain. More importantly, I come to you today as an advocate for my mother. I have an amazing mom. She raised my sister and me while she worked, but not at a job she really loved. Two years ago, she was laid off due to the economy. She continued to look for a job until about six months ago, when she decided it was finally time to go back to school and realize her dream of getting a master's degree in social work. She returned to school energized and happier than I have seen her in a long time. She is studying really hard and wants nothing more than to help people, specifically the growing elderly population of Las Vegas. However, the currently proposed budget cuts threaten

to completely eliminate her program and the entire Social Work Department at UNLV. My mom always instilled in my sister and me the importance of public service and advocacy. I sit here before you today and ask that you do not allow atrocious cuts to go forward. They will hurt UNLV, the entirety of NSHE and will completely eliminate my mom's program, just when she is finally able to pursue her dream. I have submitted a copy of my testimony ([Exhibit K](#)) for the record.

SAMANTHA HAYDOCK:

I am a biology student at UNLV. Over a year ago, my dad lost his job. We have been in Las Vegas for over ten years. Luckily, my father has a college degree and was able to get a new job. Unfortunately, that new job took him overseas and I do not get to talk to him very much. I know my family was lucky. Although there was a period where my dad did not have a job, his college degree helped him get back on his feet. Not everyone is lucky like my family. Many people do not have college degrees, which is evident by the number of people trying to enroll at UNLV. Las Vegas is a city where you do not have to have a college degree and can still make \$100,000 on the Strip. With the change in our economy, people are now realizing that they need a college degree to have a safety net.

Governor Sandoval says he has a plan to bring new businesses to Nevada, but what business wants to come into a State where we do not have an educated workforce? Families do not want to relocate to Nevada because we do not place an emphasis on education. You cannot keep cutting education and expect it to continue to function.

I am not here just to represent myself, but I am also here for the teachers and faculty of my school. I have had amazing teachers at UNLV. My favorite teacher is my chemistry teacher, Kathleen A. Robins. She makes me want to go to chemistry, which is really hard to do. I do not want to see these teachers like Ms. Robins struggle and worry about their jobs because they are teaching the next generation of Nevadans.

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CHAIR HORSFORD:

You raise a very important point. There are many families in Nevada who are struggling with unemployment, and those families who have children in school have an extra burden. You have helped to put a face on families trying to help their children succeed, despite the economy.

MICHAEL WEIR:

I am a postdoctoral scholar at UNLV. I am from Texas and moved to Las Vegas this year for my job as a researcher at the university. I want to emphasize that I already have my Ph.D. and I am not going to ever pay more in tuition. As a postdoctoral scholar, my salary is paid entirely through federal funding. I do not have furloughs or pay cuts. I am a single male, so I do not suffer if my benefits are cut or my health insurance costs are raised. This budget does not affect me, but what will be affected is the university as a whole. This budget will affect the "American Dream" and the upward ability of individuals in society. One of the great things about our Nation is that you can choose to work toward a better life. My mother was born on a farm in Wisconsin and she worked her whole life in order to become a doctor. Because my mother made that sacrifice, I had a good life growing up. I am here because someone else valued education.

From what I understand, education has been cut during the last several budgets. You have trimmed away a lot of the fat and now you are beginning to cut the real meat of education. This means you are cutting the investment of the future.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

What area of research do you focus on?

MR. WEIR:

I am a chemist.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

Do you receive federal research dollars?

MR. WEIR:

Yes, I am receiving research funding and applying for other fellowships.

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ROBERTO A. LARIS:

I am a native of Mexico, but I came to the United States when I was six months old. My parents came to this country to escape the hardship that they lived through growing up. They did not want my brothers and me to suffer in the same way that they did. I oppose these budget cuts because they will affect our future, our well-being and our humanity.

Y también, estoy aquí para representar todos los niños y que serán afectados para que mejor avancen oportunidades de progresar como ciudadanos. Para que se preparen y entiendan todo en la vida y hacer de los Estados Unidos (EE.UU) un mejor país mejor para todos. [*English Translation:* And also, I am here to represent all the children and all that would like better opportunities to advance themselves as citizens. I am here to prepare myself and understand everything in life to make the United States a better country for everyone.]

My goal in life is to become a high school sociology teacher. Unemployment makes this vision ever more blurry and pushing this agenda will "gouge out my eyes." I cannot get a job. I am disqualified from getting unemployment because I am a student. I am forced to collect cans from people's garbage in order to get whatever money I can. I have collected over 5,000 cans, but that only equals about \$100. People who are begging on the street are making more money in a week than I am. I would rather work for my money.

If you pass this budget, higher education will become more of a luxury than a necessity for the advancement of humanity. Some people will not graduate if this agenda goes through. It might be me, a sibling or my best friend. One of us will not complete our goal of a higher education that we have had since we were children. To lose hope is a terrible tragedy, worse than death. Passing this nonsense will force me to quit school, remain in the same socioeconomic class as my parents and will demolish whatever belief I have left in the American Dream.

HOWARD WATTS III:

I am a student at UNLV and will be graduating in May with a bachelor's degree in political science. I am not here to talk about how devastating the proposed budget cuts are. Instead, I want to remind you that this is the latest in several rounds of budget cuts, all of which have caused a raise in tuition. I have been lucky, unlike some of my fellow students, because I have been able to afford

the tuition increases and continue my education. Repeatedly, I have seen you balance the budget on the backs of students, the poor and working class people. You have raised a number of different fees, such as our Department of Motor Vehicles fees, claiming that they are not taxes. These fees disproportionately affect people with low incomes. Meanwhile, we are a State with no corporate income tax. This means that Walmart can charge the same low prices in Nevada as they do in California, but California has a corporate income tax. This means that we are subsidizing Walmart. We are also the largest gold producer in the United States and the fourth largest producer in the world. Yet, mining companies pay an effective tax rate of 0.5 percent on the gold they take out of this State. Meanwhile, I have to pay more to get my car registered and to go to class. This is not fair. A large, foreign-owned gold mining corporation can pay 0.5 percent in taxes, but every time I go to out for a meal, I have to pay 8 percent sales tax. I would like you to consider a balanced solution to this budget crisis that does not put the tax burden on the people who can afford it least. You need to look at a solution that begins to fix the inequality and inequity in our current tax structure. The people who can afford to pay more taxes have been "getting away with murder" in this State. They need to pay their fair share in order to allow this State to prosper.

IKAIKA REGIDOR:

I am a graduate student in the School of Social Work at UNLV. I am a first-generation college graduate and soon to be a first-time master's graduate as well. Under the current budget proposal, the UNLV School of Social Work is on the list to be cut. Although I graduate in May, this will affect my colleagues. The UNLV School of Social Work has a higher retention and graduation rate than UNLV itself. We also have a higher first-time licensure passage rate than the national average. By cutting the School of Social Work, you will also be affecting clients, communities of color and individuals who need services in southern Nevada. I know it is easier to find ways to cut than to look at revenue streams. Finding new revenue takes more creativity and more innovation. Many people have already pointed out that mining is not paying its fair share when it comes to the gold they are taking out of our State. You should know that the money and gold leaving this State could help people like me. That money could help the Department of Health and Human Services. That money could help many people, but we are letting it leave our State and our Country.

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PAULETTE BATAYOLA (President, Great Basin College Student Government Association; Vice Chair, Nevada Student Alliance):

I am speaking to you as an advocate for higher education, for Nevada, for rural Nevada and as a student. I represent 62,000 square miles of Great Basin College's (GBC) service area and over 120,000 rural residents whose family and friends call GBC their place of higher learning. I am speaking for those who live in secluded areas such as Battle Mountain, Ely, Winnemucca, Wells, Carlin and Eureka who have received over 200 baccalaureate degrees from GBC in the past five years. These students are the future for their communities.

I am not "Battle Born." I am from Seattle. I am, however, "battle raised." Nevada has provided me with a true education. And it is because of access institutions like GBC that I am able to speak in front of you today. It is because of NSHE that I am educated enough to understand what an approximately \$162 million cut, or more, will do to our institutions. I recently spoke with one of GBC's founding fathers, Dr. Hugh Collett. Dr. Collett is 90-years old and he recently told me about how Nevada's rural citizens raised \$50,000 to start the college. I am as positive as those founders were that there was, and still is, a need to educate our residents in order to grow our economies and strengthen our communities. It is through the opportunities that this great State has given me that I know that our problems go beyond higher education, kindergarten through Grade 12 education, health and human services and safety and security. I know it is Nevada as a whole that must look at reform. Change must come from the very top and flow through every channel and every citizen if Nevada is going to be Nevada again.

I believe that my fellow Nevadans want this too. I know students do. In the past five years, fellow students and I have willingly paid up to 75 percent more for our education. At the January town hall meetings in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevadans overwhelmingly said they were willing to give more for their education. I even saw one speaker empty his own pockets. I am asking today that we drop the spiteful rhetoric and lower pointed fingers. We must stop asking whose fault it is and what we can cut. We must start looking for real solutions. We have officially hit rock bottom and now is the time to rebuild and stop the cutting. I will not sit here and say that I have all the answers. I am not an expert, but I can deduce from the numbers that it is probably best that we do not sunset the sales tax from the 26th Special Session. We can no longer

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dance around the word and idea of taxes. Please, have a bipartisan discussion about revenue reform.

As students, we will continue to vote and voice our opinions. We hope and trust that you are listening. As a Nevadan, I am looking to all of you for the answers. I am looking for you to pull on your boots in true, rural-Nevadan style and start making the hard decisions.

ALEX PORTER (Senator, Great Basin College Student Government Association):
I am currently a freshman at GBC. I am from Eureka, Nevada, and graduated from Eureka County High School with honors. I could have gone to any college or university of my choice. I chose GBC. I made this choice because GBC was affordable, as I did not qualify for financial aid, it had a variety of classes and I loved the rural location. All of these factors are what most rural post-secondary students seek: a rural college setting.

I, like many of my classmates and Eureka before me, have stayed in a rural community or come back to one. The GBC is the key component to workforce development here in Nevada. If GBC is taken out of the picture of higher education, it would be hard to keep jobs in Nevada, as many students may choose out-of-state colleges. An increase in tuition and fees is inevitable, but a roughly \$4 million cut is implausible. A "skin and bones" institution without its core programs loses its quality. The institution would no longer be an open access institution and workforce development would be put in jeopardy. Students will look to other states if they cannot find the quality education they want and need here in Nevada. For example, they will attempt to escape higher tuition if a school in Idaho is less costly to attend. Rural Nevadans who receive an education in rural Nevada tend to stay in rural Nevada communities. This will be very difficult to achieve if the devastating proposed budget cuts go through the way they stand now.

I am currently pursuing an education in Computer Engineering and I will need to transfer to a larger university after I receive my associate's degree. My first choice is to transfer to UNR, but after hearing how dire the cuts are to the whole State, I have begun to question that decision. I do not know if I will be able to receive a degree in the standard four years it takes to receive a bachelor's degree. The budget cuts will diminish programs that I may need to complete my education, not only at UNR or GBC, but across the State. This will

also affect class sizes, making them bigger than they already are, quite possibly reducing the quality of learning. With a reduction in staff, more classes may have to be offered every other year or in varying intervals. This will make it that much more difficult for students to finish a degree in a timely manner. This will cause a decrease in graduation rates, affordability and workforce development. This is yet another scenario, with students who may have similar plans as mine. They will seek cheaper institutions out of State that have more secure programs where they can quickly and easily receive a degree.

One solution that has been presented to solve some of these issues is to merge institutions. I understand that this has been taken off the table for the time being, however, I would like to focus on the idea of merging GBC with Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and WNC. This change would save roughly \$5 million. This is a minimal savings. This is not the change that northern Nevada needs. The GBC's service area covers 62,000 square miles of Nevada. It provides specific education tailored to the surrounding communities. A main concern is maintaining accreditation at these institutions. The variation of programs within these three institutions is significant and some of the degrees and majors are not currently offered at any one institution selected as a host institution. The GBC offers baccalaureate degrees that are unique to GBC. The process of preserving accreditation would be difficult because of this.

Distance education is a main component of GBC and through the years it has been perfected. There will be a need for a large transformation if the institutions expect to continue tending to the needs of their community and rural areas. A merger on this scale would not be a smooth transition and would diminish the identity of these separate and unique institutions. I have submitted a copy of my testimony ([Exhibit L](#)) for the record.

KYLE HAAS:

Second chances are strictly that, another opportunity. It is up to the individual to make the most of it. Thanks to the State of Nevada and GBC, I have been able to maximize my second chance. That is what brings me here to fight for education today. Education is a vital part of our society. Numerous jobs require a postsecondary degree of some kind. No one would refute the importance of an education, but it makes you wonder why education is taking such a huge cut in this budget. It is hypocritical to stress the importance of education and then

turn around and cut it to the point that obtaining that same education is out of reach for a number of Nevadans.

Diversity is a strength to our communities and our Country as a whole. Diversity is the strength of NSHE as well. I believe the college chooses the individual more than the individual chooses the college. This is why we have the different institutions of higher education in Nevada. I understand that consolidation has been taken off the table for now, but this does not mean that we can collectively exhale. The enormity of the proposed cuts to higher education still leaves consolidation as a possibility. This is why there is a long road ahead to maintaining our educational diversity and finding a more sustainable revenue stream. Continuing to selectively tax the students of this State is not the answer. As goes education, so goes Nevada.

JACQUELINE LEMBACK (Vice President, Great Basin College Student Government Association):

"Learn from history or it is bound to repeat itself." The past is yet again continuing to repeat as you sit in your seats and listen to students once again. Another year approaches and more cuts are being given out. We keep reliving a fantasy thinking that our economy is going to change itself. We continue to slash our budget, waiting for our leaders to wake up and realize that the past is blocking them from seeing a real reality and a solution. As events begin to unfold, some eyes are beginning to open. However, cutting education while wanting a better future for Nevada is not possible. Raising tuition and fees can only get you so far before it backfires. By raising tuition and fees, the system is expecting the younger generation to provide the leaders of Nevada with a temporary solution.

Since I have been at GBC, my "taxes," I mean my tuition, has been raised 30 percent. The educators who I have had throughout my life have influenced me throughout my schooling, and I hope to do the same for the next generation. I want the next generation to know that rural Nevada is more important than most people realize. In rural Nevada, I have seen more than just a small community, but a community that contributes to every aspect of the future. In rural Nevada, I have seen students come out of the classroom and hired directly into a classroom of their own. Students are hired before graduation at a medical facility in the same community.

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Taking away a rural education would take away the availability of open access and the ability to better our society. When we put a wall between what is accessible, we put a stop to a proud Nevada. We might find a temporary solution in budget cuts, but we need to address the bigger picture: revenue and reform. Education is not the problem, it is the key to the future.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

What are some of the key programs offered at GBC?

MS. BATAYOLA:

Key programs include welding, millwrights, electrical programs and the nursing program. I know, personally, every time I have been in the hospital, at least two or three of my nurses were GBC graduates. The education program is another key program. We have had issues in rural school districts finding teachers and oftentimes we need to bring in teachers from other states. Education students from the larger cities do not want to work in Elko. We have started growing our own teachers. Recently, we had eight or nine Battle Mountain Center students who graduated and all are now teaching in Battle Mountain.

JORDAN PIERCE:

I am in fifth grade at Sandy Miller Elementary School. We should not have the budget cuts because teachers and other workers work very hard and do their best. One of the most important things is going to college and that is why we should not have cuts to higher education. Kids like me want to have a future just like their parents. My parents have told me how cool college is, but that is not going to happen with these cuts.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

Are you in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at Sandy Miller? What are you learning?

MR. PIERCE:

Right now, we are working on IB exhibition, where we work on a specific issue and we create an exhibit that explains our issue. My issue is gun control.

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CHAIR HORSFORD:
What are you learning about gun control?

MR. PIERCE:
We are learning about gun control laws in the United States. We have learned about the Second Amendment and how old you have to be to own a gun. We have learned about our right to bear arms.

SAMUEL LITMAN:
I moved to Nevada in 1992 and it was one of the greatest decisions I have ever made. I love Nevada very much. I love the mountains and all the outdoor activities Nevada offers. I began attending GBC in 2008 as a broadcasting technology student. Unfortunately, my program was cut less than a year ago. It was the first program to be cut because of budget cuts. One of my instructors lost his job because of the budget cuts. I was not happy when my program was cut and I do not think that any more programs should be cut. All of you here must tell the Governor that these cuts cannot happen. If the cuts must happen, they should be as low as possible so that students like myself can continue to attend GBC. I hope the cuts are minimal, because it is very important that students are able to continue their education in their desired programs.

AYLA ANDERSON (President, Phi Theta Kappa):
I am very passionate about GBC. My college is my home. If I did not have GBC, I do not know what I would be doing with my life right now. I started out not knowing what I wanted to do, but going to GBC gave me the opportunity to explore different areas. I have met new people and worked on skills that will help me with my future. I have come to know my teachers as friends and some are as close as family. Look at all the faces of all the students who are here right now. We are passionate about our schools and our education. We love the opportunity we have been given to receive an education. Our education is our life. You can take away everything that we have, but if we have an education we can still build ourselves up from that and make something of ourselves. I know that cuts are inevitable, but please give this everything you can. We need the help. We need these colleges and these schools. We need this education. Please help us with our lives. Please do all that you can.

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CHAIR HORSFORD:
I know you attend GBC, but where are you from?

MS. ANDERSON:
I was born in Sparks, Nevada, and have moved all over the State. I have lived in Carlin since I started high school and GBC is the only college I have ever attended.

CHAIR HORSFORD:
What are you studying?

MS. ANDERSON:
I will graduate with my associate's degree in science this semester.

JASMINE DULGAR (President, Agriculture Student Organization):
I was born and raised in Reno. The majority of my family has graduated from UNR. I chose not to go to UNR because of the cuts to the College of Agriculture. I was afraid that if I went to UNR my degree program would be cut. My only alternative was GBC. My degree is in agriculture education and I would like to teach agriculture in a rural community. I am the president of the Agriculture Student Organization, which promotes agriculture throughout the community. If you know anything about Nevada history, you would know that Nevada was founded on agriculture. Even though Nevada is much more dependent on mining now, this is inextricably linked to agriculture as well.

Over the past few months, there has been a discussion to merge the College of Agriculture at UNR with the Agriculture School at GBC. For those of you who do not know, UNR was originally founded in Elko. In fact, my great-grandmother graduated from UNR when it was still located there. Please take into consideration the impact this might have, not only on the students, but on the State as a whole. Agriculture is one of our largest industries. Cutting the College of Agriculture will affect farmers in Nevada and throughout the United States. We need to have experts that farmers can turn to in our State universities. If you close the College of Agriculture, they will have nowhere to turn.

SENATOR RHOADS:

I have watched GBC grow for nearly 30 years. It is the greatest asset the Elko community has. I am very proud of all these students. The GBC has created a great supply of talented people for the mining industry.

ASSEMBLYMAN HOGAN:

The stories you have shared are inspirational. If anyone had any doubts about how hard you are willing to work to put yourself through school, they have been answered. I am planning on being a cosponsor to one of the forthcoming tax bills. I very proudly sign on to these tax bills. It is important that each of you speak to your individual legislators and remind them that they will have an opportunity to support a more fairly shared sacrifice.

JANAE JOHNSON (Senator, Great Basin College Student Government Association):
I attend GBC at the Ely Campus. I want you to know how important GBC is to me and my community. Nearly 90 percent of the students at the Ely Campus graduate and remain in our community. The GBC offers more than an education. It is a place to grow and become successful at any chosen field. I have attended schools out of state and the experience was mortifying. Those schools were expensive and not comparable. The GBC has given me the confidence to accomplish any goal that I set for myself. The GBC is first in distance education utilizing interactive-video courses. Students are able to receive a quality education, even if the instructor is not in the room. The GBC Ely Campus is unique and feels like home when you enter the building. Ely is located in a rural area and GBC offers affordable and convenient education for our community. Unfortunately, with continued tuition increases, many of our students will not be able to return to school. Most GBC students pay for school out of their own pockets. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful learning facility like GBC and without a doubt, GBC will continue to educate rural communities and produce successful graduates who will stay here in Nevada. Higher education is designed to serve the future and our State needs educated individuals. The GBC delivers on this objective. I have submitted a copy of my testimony ([Exhibit M](#)) for the record.

CASEY BURKE-RUHL:

I am a theater major at UNR and I am the vice president of the theater honor society. When we think of compulsory education, most of us think of math, science and English as the top priorities. True, we must be able to read and write in order to be successful, but without creative thinking that success rate is cut in half. I am here to plead my love for the arts: music, dance and theater. I made my way through high school with the aid of the arts. I learned more about literature in my drama class than I did in my English class. Expressionism defines our society and culture. Creativity fuels change and growth. Killing these things only takes us a step backwards, and that is what these budget cuts will do. They will kill creativity. There are an exponential number of students who excel in theater arts, music arts and dance arts. Mr. Mahoney, who spoke earlier, is a wonderful dancer and if you saw him dance you would fall in love with him.

I have worked hard for everything I have achieved in theater, just like every other student in NSHE. If these budget cuts are approved, all of our hard work will have been in vain. There is no avoiding the issue of cuts, but please, go see a play, a dance show or any performance. Look at the performers and see their passion. That passion is what we strive for in the arts. Expression and creativity fuels us to educate ourselves. Please help us keep creativity alive. I have submitted a copy of my testimony ([Exhibit N](#)) for the record.

HELENA INSKEEP:

I am a junior at UNR pursuing a history major and a theater minor. I grew up in Reno and attended North Valleys High School (NVHS). I was raised watching UNR basketball games and both of my parents attended UNR. They even met there. I have been blessed with parents who have been able to pay for my education, but that does not mean I take advantage of them. I am currently taking six classes. I am the assistant stage manager for a production at UNR and I am codirecting a production at NVHS. I also do ten-hour shifts at my job on the weekends. I did not originally attend UNR. I originally went to California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, but I was forced to leave because of tuition increases. I do not regret coming home. I came back to UNR and have been blessed with opportunities at both UNR and TMCC. I have participated in the theater departments at both colleges and to get rid of either would be a travesty.

Education is extremely close to my heart. My father went back to school ten years ago and is now a teacher at O'Brien Middle School. I look forward to following in his footsteps and becoming a teacher. I think he copied me, because I wanted to be a history teacher first. I have always been proud of being from Nevada, but I am not proud of this day. Education is our future and should be the last thing cut, but this is not the case. Our knowledge and our arts programs provide us with imagination, independence and tolerance. All of these things give us freedom and it is being threatened. I am the forty-first speaker today. That means that 40 other college students woke up before 8 a.m. to be here to testify, not to mention the students who came from Elko, Ely and Las Vegas. You have heard all kinds of testimony, from personal stories and values, to tears, anger and passion. The emotions contained in this room and in myself are so great that it cannot help but strike you at the core. I am here today to do my part and place my piece in this puzzle that will hopefully save what we all hold dear, not only for us, but for the high school students for whom I am trying to provide a theater program. My passion is not only for myself but for them and for all of us in this room. You have heard our stories and you say that we are worth it. Please prove it.

OLIVER SEEBALD:

I am a first-year law student at the William S. Boyd School of Law. I came here today with my daughter who is a student at Ullis Newton Elementary School in Henderson. I am very thankful for my education. I have a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Michigan State University and a master's of business administration (MBA) from Georgia State University. I am very thankful to be here in Nevada because I think it is one of the best places for entrepreneurship. I deliberately chose to come to Nevada at a time when there were a lot of challenges in the marketplace.

Victor Hugo was a passionate republican who wrote the book, later turned play, *Les Misérables*. Victor was a noteworthy proponent of business-owner copyrights and a zealot for the republican way and efficiencies in government. He boldly declared in 1840, "He who opens a school door, closes a prison." That quote means a lot right now.

The result of less money for education will be increased crime, more parole officers, more correctional officers and more prisons that will have a substantially greater overall toll on our budget than maintaining the education budget. More educated Nevadans will attract businesses that require highly educated workers present in order to relocate here. Additionally, more educated people help local entrepreneurs grow the businesses that will ultimately bolster and sustain our tax base.

As an MBA in entrepreneurship, a juris doctor candidate at the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV, a father and most proudly, as a Nevadan, please, find a way to pay for Nevada public education now, or pay a bigger price later with a less educated citizenry, and with higher costs for prisons, dramatically increased unemployment and general unproductivity in Nevada life. I am an optimist, but I think that things can get much worse if education is cut. I have submitted a copy of my testimony ([Exhibit O](#)) for the record.

LISA A. MCNEIL:

I am a college and scholarship counselor at Mojave High School in CCSD. Mojave is a great school and we send kids to college. In the past five years we have earned more than \$10 million in academic scholarships at a school that is considered consistently low-achieving. I would like my 11 students who are here today to stand up so you can see their faces. They have all been accepted to UNLV and a majority of them have also been accepted to UNR. They have also been accepted to the University of Arizona, Wilberforce University and several other schools out of state. I am getting over \$10 million in scholarships and sending it somewhere else.

With the proposed budget cuts to higher and K-12 education, we are risking Nevada's future. We are sending our future to California, Ohio, Arizona and everywhere else but here. Our best and our brightest are leaving and they are not coming back. We are not offering them anything. We are telling them that all their hard work and determination means nothing to us. If we cannot keep our best and brightest in our State and in our colleges, they will take their education and their future earning potential somewhere else. How can we grow Nevada as a State and future business prospect if we cannot grow our own educational system?

I have been a part of CCSD for 21 years. I am a product of UNLV. I originally left the State for the College of Southern Idaho where I received my associate's degree in elementary education. I came back to finish that degree at UNLV, because I wanted to be in the State that has given my family so much. I have grandchildren for whom I am paying into Nevada Prepaid Tuition. I often wonder if I should stop paying because I do not know if there will be a college for my seven-year old granddaughter. I do not know if there will be programs for her to choose from. I am an alumna and I would love my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren be alumni of UNLV, but if we cannot grow our educational system, I will send them out of state.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

Thank you for your service as an educator and I would like to acknowledge the 11 students you brought with you today. I know that Mojave is often considered one of the five turn-around schools, but the students at Mojave need to understand that it is not a label at the school, but what you do in the school that makes the difference. Keep believing in yourself, keep working hard and do not let anyone tell you that you are not worth a good education.

TERRALEE BURBANK:

I slept on the floor of a bus last night so that my kids could have a place to sleep as we traveled here. This recession has hit my family hard. Five weeks ago, my husband left us. I am the only thing my children have left. Recently, the Associated Press did an article on my family and if you read it you know that I have broad shoulders and tough skin. I do not care what labels they put on me, but these students are being labeled as lazy, as social leeches.

I hear these theater students talk about their fabulous careers on stage, but I will be an accountant because I need a nine-to-five job. I am jealous of these kids, but I want my children to pursue those dreams. I made some mistakes and now I need to work a nine-to-five job to make sure that I can care for my kids. But apparently I should work two jobs, one that involves a pole and the other one at a drive-through. That is the kind of ignorance that people in this State have. If you agree with those sentiments as a Legislature, please quit your day job. At this point in time, this State needs solutions. We have taken cut after cut to the budget. I know this as someone who runs a household. I am only going to be able to cut the cable, the Internet, the gas and the electrical bill so many times before there is nothing left but a shallow shell of a household. That

is what this State is becoming. The corporations in this State are going to have to help out. Mining is going to have to pay its fair share. We need shared sacrifice. My family is falling apart because my husband could not handle the fact that he was unemployed and could no longer support his family. That is my children's shared sacrifice. The students who are here, their future is on the line. We do not show up because we have nothing better to do. We care more than anyone else right now. Each one of us here today represents at least 100 other students who could not make it. When times were good in this State, education was cut, and now we continue to cut. We are here to tell you the buck stops here. Please make the hard choices, because the budget is not going to be balanced on our backs any longer. We have the voting power and your actions will determine whether we welcome you back in this building.

LEA MOSER (Senator, College of Liberal Arts, Associated Students of the University of Nevada):

I am a political science major at the University of Nevada. I am a fifth-generation graduate of Sparks High School. I am in my second term as a Senator for the College of Liberal Arts in the Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN). Like you, I have constituents. This is the second time that I have had to discuss with my constituents what it is that they are willing to sacrifice to be more efficient. I used to know what "efficient" meant, until I became an ASUN senator. Now I know that "efficient" means that we get what you give us. Because of our efficiency goal, Nevada has turned into the equivalent of a third-world country. Parents are busing their children to schools in other states and if I had the opportunity, I would have done the same.

I have come up with a solution. We must invest in our students and our future. If you do not, you must be prepared to live in a stagnant State where people are trying to leave. I have submitted a copy of my testimony ([Exhibit P](#)) for the record.

DALTON CASAN:

I am a freshman at UNR majoring in theater. I am originally from Pahrump, Nevada. Everyone has their sob story, from being homeless on the streets to doing drugs. Growing up was hard. I took courses at GBC while I was in high school. My mom could not keep a job. My dad was living in Las Vegas where he worked in a casino. I wanted to be different. I wanted to go to college and do something with my life. My first semester of college was great, but I

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learned this semester that my program might be cut. Where else am I supposed to go? I get financial aid, but I cannot afford to move to California. I do not want to move to Oregon.

I always try to keep a smile on my face, but these budget cuts are making me frown. These cuts suck. I have not met Governor Sandoval and I certainly did not vote for him, but we have to deal with him and his budget.

Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the other side. All of us, the students, are the chickens, the road is our education. If you take away the road, we are stuck in chicken pot pies.

BENJAMIN DYER (President, Alpha Psi Omega):

I am a bachelor's of fine arts student at UNR majoring in technical theater. I was born and raised in Las Vegas by my wonderful parents who are still together. They have provided for me and helped me along. I am graduating this May, so these cuts do not directly affect me, but I still feel very passionate about the outcome.

I am a success story from UNR. Because of the theater program at UNR, I work at the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival every summer as their electrician. This summer I am returning to the festival and I will be their Master Electrician. After this summer, I am moving to Las Vegas to work for Cirque de Soleil. I get to do this because of what my degree has done for me. I am coming out of this theater program with far more than I ever came into it with. I never thought I would be able to do this. I came to college thinking I was going to be a psychiatrist. I took Acting 105 and I immediately switched my major to theater. My mother questioned my decision and she works at a children's theater. My father works for the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas. My parents met on stage in a production of Macbeth. I have theater running through my blood. If you cut this program, while it will not directly affect me, it will affect my friends. Many of my friends are here today and many more could not make it. A lot of my friends are engineering majors who take a minor in theater because they love it so much, but they cannot miss their physics and chemistry classes to be here today. If you cut my program after I graduate, what will that say about my degree? Will my degree be worth anything if my program is not worth saving? I love what I do. I work backstage because it is where I love to be. I

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make the magic happen. I urge you to come to UNR and see what we do, because it is absolutely tremendous.

This reminds me of a poem from my favorite playwright, Harold Pinter. The poem is titled *Democracy*, and while it is not appropriate to share on the record, I urge you to look it up.

LUISA KOESTER:

I am a student at Mojave High School. Recently, one of my friends lost her choir program at UNR and she might also lose the theater department. The arts are a second home for us. It is where we go to get away. You cannot sing out loud in most classes. The arts allow students to be in a room full of people with the same passion as you have. Taking these departments away from us hurts us. This is our home away from home. As students move on from high school and into college, we should be able to pursue all our passions from singing to being a doctor. My mother tells me to keep going and get my education. She wants me to live out the dreams that she was not able to. My mom is from the Philippines and she did not have a lot of money growing up.

SHIRLEY DIAZ (Director of Campus Unity, Associated Students of the University of Nevada):

I am represented by Senator Leslie and Assemblyman Bobzien. As the Director of Campus Unity, I am responsible for diversity programming for UNR. As you know, it has been proposed to close CSCD due to Governor Sandoval's education budget. This cut will be devastating for the minority students on our campus. I am Hispanic and it affects me personally. As other students have stated, the center is a home for students whose parents did not attend higher education or their parents attended in a different country. These students and their families are unfamiliar with the higher education system in the United States and the resources available. They do not know how to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form or ask for financial aid. There are a lot of things as first-generation students that we do not know how to do and CSCD provides a space for us to organize and learn. The multicultural clubs that are run through CSCD provide a vibrant cultural life on campus. We run things like the step show, Black History Month and International Women's Day. There are endless amounts of cultural engagement that will be lost with the closure of CSCD.

I am an international affairs and political science major and a French minor. I chose French as a minor because I already speak Spanish. Currently, French and Spanish are the only two language programs that you can major in. French is also proposed to be cut. This means that all of those Nevadans who already speak Spanish as a second language will have no options to major in a new language. This is devastating to cultural diversity as well as educational expansion. As an international affairs major, it is important that I speak multiple languages in order to stay competitive in the job market. I know that going to college has helped me as a young person. Growing up in Carson City, I was on the wrong path, but going to college taught me how to be a leader and think for myself. These are qualities we all want in our fellow Nevadans. You already know the statistics. Having a higher education leads to lower rates of violent crime, higher income levels and higher tax revenues. Please think about what you are doing and the communities you are going to affect. Think about the people that are underrepresented and the opportunities college provides students who would not have had them otherwise.

CHRISTOPHER DUGAN:

I am a triplet with two brothers at UNR. I also have an older sister at UNR. We were all born and raised in Reno. My mom works at UNR and my dad was once a professor at UNR. Everyone has told you what our problems are and how they are affecting students. I would like to talk to you about solutions. There are several things that you can do to fill the hole in the budget and maybe even replace some of the money you cut last year as well.

First, you should add a \$1 tax to all tobacco products. This will get people off tobacco products, which will drive down the cost of health care, and create revenue for the State. Additionally, my parents are rather well off. They told me to come here today and ask you to tax them more. You do not need to tax poor people more. My parents are Mary Dugan and Daniel Dugan. They would rather be taxed more and keep our education system intact. Finally, Nevada has the best opportunity for alternative energy than any state in the Union. I attended a conference last year at the Joe Crowley Student Union and a speaker stated that there is enough sunlight that hits Washoe County alone to power the entire United States. Washoe County is not that big. Nye County is bigger. If we put enough solar panels up, we could power the entire world. Then we could have some of the best universities in the entire world.

I am a dual major in community health science and nursing, with a minor in French. I work 25 hours a week and I am on the cycling and triathlon teams. I am an officer in the public health coalition. I am on my mom's insurance plan because she works at UNR. We used to have some of the best insurance around and now we have some of the worst. As a cyclist, I need that insurance. Please consider what you are doing, I have provided some solutions, now let us go to work.

ADRIENNE SAWYER:

I am new to Nevada and only have been here five years. I graduated from college, but I am going back to school at WNC because of the economy. I am here to talk about the College of Cooperative Extension (CCE) at UNR. Many people associate CCE with gardening and 4-H, but it is so much more. The CCE helps people in six key areas: natural resources, children and families, health and nutrition, community development, agriculture and horticulture. There are specialists in each of these areas who bring the knowledge from the University to the people of Nevada through trainings, conferences and face-to-face contact in county extension offices. The CCE may not hand out degrees, but it most certainly educates the people of Nevada.

The 4-H program falls under the service area of children and families. It serves 50,000 youth in Nevada. Although 4-H has traditionally been thought of as kids raising animals and home arts, it has grown to so much more. In Douglas County, 4-H youth can learn to scuba dive. In Carson, teens are taught leadership skills through being camp counselors. In Washoe, 4-H runs after-school enrichment programs in science and nutrition. The Governor's proposed budget funds CCE at a 33 percent reduction. While this is a devastating reduction, it pales in comparison with President Glick's plan to cut CCE by 72 percent. While President Glick's proposal does not eliminate 4-H, it seriously hinders the continuation of the 4-H program in Nevada. Many of the 4-H staff are funded through the State. They write grants to fund the after-school programs in health, science, nutrition and for our military. Under this proposal, all of this would be cut. All State events would be cut and any Nevada presence at 4-H national events would be cut. There might be a door that says 4-H, but there will be no one behind it.

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In one week, the halls of the Legislature will be populated with 4-H youths from all over Nevada. They will be here to see the Nevada government in action. Please take a look at these outstanding young people who embody the 4-H spirit. These youths are the future leaders of this country. Under President Glick's proposal, this will be the last time 4-H youths will get this opportunity. In a recent article, Governor Sandoval attributed the skills he learned in 4-H to much of his success. I am asking the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal of a 33 percent reduction to CCE and encourage UNR to abide by your decision. I have submitted a copy of my testimony ([Exhibit Q](#)) for the record.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

I fundamentally believe that the State of Nevada is at a crossroads. We are at a fork in the road and we have chosen for many decades to delay decisions. In the past we have chosen not to deal with problems and in this Legislative Session, we are faced with doing everything we have put off at a time when our State faces the most dire economic situation. Please stay involved after today.

We are deciding your future. You represent this State's future, and without all of you, this State has no future at all.

CHAIRWOMAN SMITH:

Thank you all for sharing your compelling testimony. We also received written testimony from Donald Mahoney ([Exhibit R](#)), Michelle Millman ([Exhibit S](#)), Branden French ([Exhibit T](#)), David C. Harrell ([Exhibit U](#)), Angel Duvanko ([Exhibit V](#)), Reece Kent ([Exhibit W](#)), Nicole Rosales ([Exhibit X](#)), Gabrielle Yates ([Exhibit Y](#)), Nichole Boseck ([Exhibit Z](#)) and Natalie Higgins ([Exhibit AA](#)). Please remind your parents that it is important that we hear from them as well. Chair Horsford is correct, we have huge decisions to make during these difficult times. We have a budget in front of us that requires us to make some very difficult choices.

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CHAIR HORSFORD:

With no further business before the Committee, this meeting is adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Marian Williams,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Steven A. Horsford, Chair

DATE: _____

Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, Chair

DATE: _____

<u>EXHIBITS</u>			
Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
	C	Erin Neff	ProgressNow Nevada Petition
	D	Jason McGill	Testimony
	E	Sheldon Phelps	Testimony
	F	Erin Humphreys	Testimony
	G	Elliot Malin	Testimony
	H	America Acevedo	Testimony
	I	Emmanuelle Garcia	Testimony
	J	Nicholas Blevins	Testimony
	K	Shaina Solomon	Testimony
	L	Alex Porter	Testimony
	M	Janae Johnson	Testimony
	N	Casey Burke-Ruhl	Testimony
	O	Oliver Seebald	Testimony
	P	Lea Moser	Testimony
	Q	Adrienne Sawyer	Testimony
	R	Donald Mahoney	Written Testimony
	S	Michelle Millman	Written Testimony
	T	Branden French	Written Testimony
	U	David C. Harrell	Written Testimony
	V	Angel Duvanko	Written Testimony
	W	Reece Kent	Written Testimony
	X	Nicole Rosales	Written Testimony
	Y	Gabrielle Yates	Written Testimony
	Z	Nichole Boseck	Written Testimony
	AA	Natalie Higgins	Testimony Note Cards