

**MINUTES OF THE  
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON K-12 EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION  
OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
AND THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Seventy-sixth Session  
March 31, 2011**

The Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Steven A. Horsford at 3:19 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2011, in Lawlor Event Center, Reno, 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 SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Steven A. Horsford, Chair  
Senator Moises (Mo) Denis  
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske

**ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, Chair  
Assemblyman Marcus L. Conklin, Vice Chair  
Assemblyman Paul Aizley  
Assemblyman Tom Grady  
Assemblyman Pat Hickey  
Assemblywoman April Mastroluca  
Assemblyman John Ocegüera

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Ben Kieckhefer (Excused)

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator David R. Parks, Clark County Senatorial District No. 7  
Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Washoe County Assembly District No. 24  
Assemblyman Richard (Skip) Daly, Clark County Assembly District No. 41

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 2

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marian Williams, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Charlie Jose, President, Associated Students of the University of Nevada  
Matthew Smith, President, University of Nevada, Reno, Graduate Student Association  
Casey Stiteler, Director of Legislative Affairs, Associated Students of the University of Nevada; President Elect, Associated Students of the University of Nevada  
Trevor Macaluso, Attorney General, Associated Students of the University of Nevada  
Brandon Bishop, Speaker of the Senate, Associated Students of the University of Nevada  
Shirley Diaz, Director of Campus Unity, Associated Students of the University of Nevada  
Eric Thornley, Associated Students of the University of Nevada  
Christina Gunn, Student President, Nevada State Education Association; Executive Board Member, Associated Students of the University of Nevada  
John Kucera, Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs, Associated Students of the University of Nevada  
Beatriz Aguirre  
Mary Cabales  
Hettie Ploeger  
Julia Carmichael  
Sara Poindexter  
Jaymee Oxborrow  
Michael McCraven  
Matthew Polasko  
Timothy Casentini  
Jonathan Price, Nevada State Geologist; Director, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology  
Bonny Peacock  
Destiny Raikas

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 3

Richard Stewart  
Susan Chandler  
Steve Mattos  
James D. Strange  
Alison Turner, President, Nevada PTA  
Maria René Castedo  
Daryl Drake  
Steve Laden  
Collier Azare, President, Omega Delta Sigma  
Casey Burke-Ruhl, Vice President, Alpha Psi Omega  
Benjamin Dyer, President, Alpha Psi Omega  
Elisa Hanna  
Gene Gardella  
Karen Faehling  
Mary Hylton  
Sterling Hall  
Matt Ford  
Douglas Howey  
Sherry Neil Urban  
Megan Zander  
Meghan Kirwin  
Sam Dugan  
Tanja Hayes  
Deborah Achtenberg  
Max Alderman  
Joshua Mindrum  
Helena Inskeep  
Sarah Rodriguez  
Donald Mahoney  
Zoe Scott  
Heather Allen  
Alexandria Arzie  
Kaila Britt  
Michael Bailey  
Crystal Jackson  
David Jones, Senator, Truckee Meadows Community College  
Ashley Levin

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 4

David G. Hadel  
David Stentiford

CHAIR HORSFORD:

Today we will hear public comment regarding the Governor's budget on higher education.

CHARLIE JOSE (President, Associated Students of the University of Nevada):  
I am the current President of the undergraduate student body at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), a Millennium Scholar and a product of Nevada's public education system.

We, the students of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), have come before you numerous times in the past few months to share our stories, our personal struggles to accessing higher education and our fears of broken futures and shattered dreams. While we have been encouraged by your body to share our stories in forums like these, it seems like our efforts are falling on deaf ears. Senator Roberson's quote in the *Las Vegas Sun*, in response to the student rally held on March 21, 2011, says, "I support their right to do what they need to do...But protests will not influence my vote one way or another."

Is this the way democracy is supposed to work?

Student involvement in this budget crisis is at its highest, but when we read articles in the media that dismiss our efforts, it is disheartening for students who will be the future of Nevada. We are coming to you, our elected representatives, because we care about our future and the future of our State. Please correct me if the media is portraying this incorrectly.

I ask you, do you care about the future of the great State of Nevada?

Referring to the Governor's budget proposal, Senator McGinness was quoted in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* as saying, "Legislators should examine the proposals closely, but not stress over them, because their job isn't looking two years ahead, but at the current budget plan."

What do statements like these tell students and voters in this State?

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 5

It tells us that while we, as students, are expected to plan our education, careers and lives ahead of time to be best prepared for the future, legislators should not be expected to worry about the future of the State two years from now. With all due respect, this is shortsighted and discouraging.

You are our elected officials and we are your constituents. We have gathered the facts and are coming to you with our concerns. If our efforts mean nothing to you, know that our students are paying attention to your decisions. We are students. We are taxpayers. We are voters. I really hope you genuinely intend to take the testimony you hear today into very serious consideration and with the intention to advocate for higher education in Nevada. Without it, our State will deteriorate faster than it already has. I have submitted a complete copy of my testimony ([Exhibit C](#)) for the record.

MATTHEW SMITH (President, University of Nevada, Reno, Graduate Student Association):

Many of you and your colleagues ran for election on the rhetoric of "We the people." Yet, when we as taxpayers tell you again and again in polls, town hall meetings, letters, telephone calls, hearings and at the largest rally in the history of the Legislature, that we the people value education enough to ask to be taxed, suddenly our voices do not seem to matter so much.

There are the facts and then there is what many of you chose to believe. We are not reducing funding to the 2006 or even 2003 levels. If the Governor has his way, we will end up below 1991 levels after adjusting for inflation. We will be 20 years behind. Many of you rail away about our graduation rates, especially Senator Cegavske. Yet, you fail to notice that we have improved by 66 percent at UNR in the last 10 years. You fail to notice that College of Southern Nevada students who transfer to a university or take a workforce development class, never intended to graduate from that institution in the first place, yet you still consider them failures. The only way the graduation rates will improve by cutting our budgets more is when you price out all the low-income students and cut the support systems for the remaining first-generation students. The privileged students who are left will be just fine.

In Nevada, is education for everyone or not? This is the choice you have to make. We encourage you to listen to the voice of the people as we continue to

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 6

speak ever more loudly and ever more earnestly. We encourage you to fund education. I have submitted a complete copy of my testimony ([Exhibit D](#)) for the record.

CASEY STITELER (Director of Legislative Affairs, Associated Students of the University of Nevada; President Elect, Associated Students of the University of Nevada):

On Monday, university administrators will announce the second half of the devastating cuts proposed by Governor Brian Sandoval. From this moment, there are only 13 days until I take office as the Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN) President. By the time I take office, less than two weeks from now, this university, its colleges and the programs and services it offers will be drastically different. We will be a more narrow, less competitive institution due to these cuts.

These students understand that finding a way to fill the budget gap is a tough decision. We also understand that deciding whether or not to pay rent or tuition is a tough decision. We understand that deciding to pay for books with credit cards and loans is a tough decision. We understand that accumulating years worth of debt in order to improve ourselves and our State is a tough decision. These students make tough decisions every day. Tough decisions are what got us here and we are counting on you to make tough decisions that are in the best interest of our State for years to come, not just until the next election.

I agree with Governor Sandoval that the key to getting out of this recession is to get Nevada working again. However, by approving this budget you are, effectively, telling every potential nurse, engineer, architect, teacher and future business leader that it is going to be just that much harder to enter the work force competitively in the State of Nevada. We need to get Nevada working again by investing in a natural resource that we have too long ignored. That resource is sitting behind me today ready to beg you for an opportunity to prove itself and to contribute to this great State. I promise you, this resource will pay dividends to the State of Nevada for years to come if provided the educational opportunity to do so.

I would like to politely reassure you that March 21 was only the beginning. This Legislative Session is only the beginning. The students sitting behind me today

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 7

are only the beginning of a movement in this State that will fix education by fixing the way this State looks at education. We have been watching all of you this Session and we will continue to watch you over the coming weeks. I can promise you one thing, we will not forget the decision made between now and the end of the Session. We are counting on you. God Bless and Go Pack.

I have submitted a written copy of my testimony ([Exhibit E](#)) for the record.

TREVOR MACALUSO (Attorney General, Associated Students of the University of Nevada):

It is a well-known fact that people who attend colleges and universities are more likely to succeed in life. The U.S. Department of Education reported that over a lifetime you can make approximately \$1.3 million more by attending an institution of higher education than you can by earning a high school diploma. Having a well-funded system of higher education contributes to student empowerment and future success in life. Many of the leaders of our State graduated from a college or university in the State of Nevada, including Governor Sandoval, Attorney General Cortez Masto, Justice Hardesty, U.S. Senator Ensign, U.S. Congresswoman Berkley, Chancellor Klaich, Regent Geddes and Regent Cobb. Assemblyman Aizley taught at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

I am here today to speak specifically to 30 legislators: Senator Hardy, Senator Kihuen, Senator Leslie, Senator Settelmeyer, Senator Breeden, Senator Cegavske, Senator Copening, Senator Horsford, Senator McGinness, Senator Parks, Senator Gustavson, Senator Schneider, Assemblyman Anderson, Assemblywoman Bustamante-Adams, Assemblyman Frierson, Assemblyman Hickey, Assemblywoman Dondero Loop, Assemblywoman Flores, Assemblyman Atkinson, Assemblyman Grady, Assemblyman Horne, Speaker Ocegüera, Assemblyman Ohrenschall, Assemblyman Stewart, Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson, Assemblyman Conklin, Assemblyman Hammond, Assemblywoman McClain, Assemblyman Daly and Assemblywoman Diaz. These 30 Legislators, nearly half of the Legislature, attended an institute of higher education here in Nevada for either their undergraduate or graduate studies. Previous State of Nevada Legislatures ensured that these 30 Legislators received a higher education that was well funded. Our future lies in your hands the way your future fell into the hands of

Legislators past. Our success hinges on your decisions as your successes once hung on their decisions. Do you not want to provide us with the same privileges that you were once provided with yourselves? I have included a copy of my testimony for the record ([Exhibit F](#)).

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

I am one of the students who will be walking across that stage in a few months and graduating from UNR. I have the unfortunate duty of handing a gavel to the next generation of students who will see a decline in the value of their education in this State. When we look at education, it represents our economy and our investment in the future. To pay for our education we have to look at real revenues or various cuts. If we look at Nevada's tax structure, it is the same as driving a horse-drawn carriage down U.S. Highway 80 (I-80). The horse-drawn carriage is fantastic during rush hour because you are moving at five miles per hour, but if you try driving the carriage down I-80 during any other time of the day, it will not get you anywhere. We need to tackle this problem. It is a hard decision to drive the nice, well-built vehicle 65 miles per hour, but we need to take that step. The students, faculty, staff, employees, citizens and taxpayers sitting behind me represent the future of Nevada. Their degrees represent the future business interests, the future political interests and everything else that is to come in this State.

We started this State with proud traditions and with a strong respect for our future. Our Constitution did a lot of things that other state constitutions did not. We recognized the importance of education by creating a body that was separate to run education. Now, we are turning our backs on the future. We are turning our backs on the future economy, business interests and taxpayers of this State. We are not going to tolerate it anymore. We expect more from our legislators and our elected officials. I have faith in you. I know that you graduated from these institutions and that you went through higher education. I know that after sitting in a tent in front of the student union for 44 hours to protest the budget cuts, that there are ideas out there. Our students were about to come up with those ideas, and if they can do it, so can you. We can pull through this.



Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 9

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

I am represented in the Assembly by Assemblyman Bobzien. I am a political science and international affairs student. I am also a Latina. I am here to represent the underrepresented students at UNR. The University has proposed to close the French department. I am a French minor and this department is very important to me. I already speak Spanish and if you close the French department, students like myself who already speak Spanish as a second language will be left without any other language options. As an international affairs student, it is important that I am competitive in the international workforce. French is the language that is spoken at the United Nations and in countries around the world. These language skills are very important.

The University has also proposed cutting the Center for Student Cultural Diversity (CSCD). The CSCD is home to the Black Student Union, the Asian American Student Association, the Latino Student Advisory Board, the Native American Student Alliance and many other multicultural fraternities and sororities on campus. The closure of CSCD will be devastating to all the students who consider the center their home away from home on campus. Many students use the resources the center offers such as financial aid, academic advising and career counseling.

Twenty-eight percent of students at UNR are on the Pell Grant, meaning they are low-income students. If you raise tuition, you are eliminating options for these students. They are already on Pell Grants and many of these students work one or two other jobs to pay current tuition prices. The negative repercussions of these cuts will extend beyond the closure of programs. Younger students who are looking to come to UNR, like my little brother, will see that people like me cannot even finish college and will become discouraged because of what you are doing. These students will not have the same support systems. Please think about how these cuts will extend beyond the closure of programs and how they will create a permanent lower class, pushing the same people out of higher education. If you implement these cuts, we are going to wonder in the future why certain people are educated and others are not.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 10

ERIC THORNLEY (Associated Students of the University of Nevada):

I am a junior at UNR. I have been in front of your committee before and I do not like repeating myself. Today, I would like to explain my personal objection to these cuts.

When UNR President Milton Glick announced the areas that could be affected by these cuts, I was relieved to see that my major, history and international affairs, would be minimally affected. Despite cuts in the graduate program in history during the last round of budget cuts, I was relieved until I saw another department on the chopping block, the Disability Resource Center. I have a learning disability, Dysgraphia and Dyspraxia. I believe in self-preservation and I am fortunate that my disability is not as challenging as some, although it sometimes negatively affects me in math.

I want you all to keep in mind that these cuts are not just academic in nature. These are personal issues at stake. I applaud Assemblyman Bobzien for saying that he is concerned about these cuts. But remember, either financially or academically, people are going to be deeply touched by these cuts one way or another. Please work as hard as you can. We are counting on you. Go Pack.

I have submitted a written copy of my testimony for the record ([Exhibit G](#)).

CHRISTINA GUNN (Student President, Nevada State Education Association; Executive Board Member, Associated Students of the University of Nevada):

I consider life to be like a business. You encounter a dream, examine it and decide it is a goal that you would like to pursue. You decide to invest whatever it takes in your dream to see your future come to fruition. During the development stage of your dream, you continue to invest more time and money than you ever foresaw necessary. Looking back at the conception of your dream to its end result and all of its glitz and glam, you know it was worth every penny.

This is what happens for many students in higher education systems around the Country, but not here in Nevada. Here in Nevada, the dream-to-fruition timeline has a gaping black hole at its end. Many students see that timeline with a title over it called the "Nevada Legislature."

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 11

I am attending UNR to become a high school math teacher. Through the cuts that have been made, I have struggled to dodge the hurdles and roadblocks that have been placed between myself and the graduation finish line. I have become apprehensive that my degree is not enough to do what it takes in life to get through. Because of this, I have added another teaching major and two minors to my course load. Even still, with programs being cut at the University and throughout the State, I begin to wonder if any higher education, academic accomplishments that I have made will mean anything to an employer.

Last week at the education rally, a student was interviewed by Channel 2 News and said, "What will people think of my degree when the University doesn't offer that major anymore?" Additionally, with the potential increase in tuition, I will never be able to pay to do my student teaching for six months, because I will not be compensated during this time. Even if Miss Havisham chose to be my benefactor as opposed to Pip's, and I was able to complete my student teaching and earn my teaching certificate, I do not see myself teaching in the State of Nevada. The cuts being made to education throughout the State are outrageous and I do not believe I can put my family in that position.

I am going to become another poverty-stricken Nevadan with an unpayable debt and no job. My dream has been sucked into your black hole. I have given my testimony telling you about myself and how you have swiftly stolen my dream, but you are probably wondering, "Who is this girl and why is she telling me this?"

I am Nevada born and I love this State. I am a senior who, when I graduate, will be more than \$23,000 in debt because I have invested in my dream. I am a member and Student President of the Nevada State Education Association. I am an activist for public education. I am also a student who will graduate from this University with a degree in a profession that I cannot use. Finally, I am an individual of this State who has voted for many of the members who are sitting in front of me today. I hope you do not lie to your children when you tuck them in at night. I hope you do not tell them that they can be anything they want to be like my mother did, because I can guarantee that if this State continues in the direction we are currently headed, there will be future Legislators who will have to lie. They will cause Nevada's parents to lie to their children, and those children will no longer be able to accomplish their dream.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 12

JOHN KUCERA (Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs, Associated Students of the University of Nevada):

I am not an expert, but experts have spoken. You know the facts. You will hear our testimony. You have and will see the impacts of these cuts across the State, unless we do something different. We have the ability and we have the capability.

My job is to bridge the gap between you, the Legislators, and us, the citizens and community members. The Legislative process is about priorities and I know that Nevada tops everyone's list. All of the debate and controversy arises out of how we put Nevada at the top and how we keep it there. I have read the reports and I have listened to the experts. I have listened to proponents and opponents of education and I have decided that the only path for Nevada is through education. I charge all of you to argue the facts, ignore the politics and put Nevada first.

BEATRIZ AGUIRRE:

I am a native Las Vegas, born and raised in Senate District 4. I am a social work student at UNR. In pursuing my higher education, I had options. I could have stayed in Las Vegas, I could have gone to California, but I chose to stay in Nevada. I wanted to get a Nevada education and give back to my community. Little did I know coming into NSHE, that I would face a situation where education was not at the forefront of this State. Cuts should not be an option. Last Legislative Session, there were severe cuts to the education system. After that, there was a Special Session, and more cuts were made. The education system has no more fat left to cut without seriously dismantling the entire system.

We need more revenue. The economy is not going to improve to the point that we need it by the next Legislative Session. The idea of facing more cuts in two years is horrible. We need to support new businesses, new revenue and we need to bring more money to this State so that we do not need to cut education and the future of Nevada. I know that Senator Leslie and Assemblywoman Pierce have proposed a constitutional amendment. We need to support these bills so that we can tax mining corporations and bring more revenue to this State.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 13

Right now, we are facing the fact that departments are turning on other departments and staff turning on one another. Entire Universities are turning on one another to try to save their programs. In my case, I am a student in the School of Social Work. We are here to advocate that social work is needed statewide. The south and the north have different social work needs. Consolidating these programs is not going to help anyone. We have many rural residents who need our services. By cutting these programs rural residents will no longer have access to the programs that they need.

Mining needs to start paying its fair share and supporting their communities. They need to support education in those communities.

MARY CABALES (Vice President, Undergraduate Student Social Work Association): I am a social work student at UNR and a single parent raising my eight-year old son. I am trying to show him the importance of education and hard work. My family migrated from the Philippines to the U.S. when I was ten years old. My parents had the biggest hopes and dreams for my siblings and me. America is called the land of endless opportunities, correct? Even with all the struggles and challenges that I have experienced, balancing the act of being a parent, student and worker, this is the first time that I have questioned what my future will look like. Not to mention, questioned the future of my son and the rest of the children in our State. I am pleading for you all to consider raising revenue to strengthen our State and its people. Give us hope and confidence that education and our children will be taken into great consideration when making your decision.

HETTIE PLOEGER:

I am a current social work student here at UNR. I am graduating with my bachelor's degree in social work this May. I am a lifelong Nevada resident and voter. Growing up here has given me a clear sense of the strength in this community. Up until this budget was proposed, I have never considered leaving Nevada, but given the circumstances, I may have to leave in order to work in my current profession. I am facing a choice between my home and my career which is never something I thought my elected officials would force me to do.

It is shameful that Nevada will not support social work education. Social workers have a direct influence on the health and well-being of residents. A

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 14

community is only as strong as its weakest members and Nevada has the opportunity during this Legislative Session to make a statement.

Nevada became a state during a time of conflict. Now, during this economic conflict, we have a chance to redefine ourselves. You, as legislators, need to have faith in your constituents. With the right resources, we will fight to make Nevada even stronger. I challenge you as our elected officials to raise revenue and raise Nevada. In future elections, we as social workers, our families and the people we serve will remember what happened during this Legislative Session. Please support raising revenue to ensure that all Nevada businesses and residents pay their fair share. I have submitted a complete copy of my testimony for the record ([Exhibit H](#)).

JULIA CARMICHAEL:

I grew up in Nevada and live in Assembly District 24. I am a social work student at UNR. I am also a homeowner, taxpayer and, most importantly, I am a voter. I grew up in Nevada schools singing, "Home means Nevada, home means the hills." Until last year, I was proud to call myself a Nevadan. I have worked in the human services field for the past two years and I am no longer able to continue because of the lack of funding. This hurts me deeply. I recently applied at a casino to be a cocktail waitress, but they did not hire me. Why? Believe it or not, they said it was because I am too smart.

It is painfully obvious to me that there is no value placed upon education and scholastic achievement. Is this the message that we are sending our community? I am not sure that I want to call myself a Nevadan after all.

Many members of my family have left Nevada because of the lack of quality education. My father, who was a local dentist in Sparks, sold his practice and moved to Iowa. Both my sisters went to graduate school in other states. My sister Whitney went to law school in Iowa and my sister Jenna went to pharmacy school in Tucson, Arizona. This is unfortunate, because both educational opportunities are offered here in Nevada.

As sad as I am about these startling facts, I still find myself yearning to call Nevada home. I am asking you to help make this happen. I am relying on you to increase revenue to fund education in Nevada. Last year, I earned just over the

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 15

federal poverty level, and I would be willing to pay more in taxes. If I can, so can you. I have submitted a written copy of my testimony ([Exhibit I](#)) for the record.

SARA POINDEXTER:

I am from Sitka, Alaska, which is a small, rural island in southeast Alaska. I came to UNR on an academic scholarship, which will not exist anymore following the budget cuts. People like me will not have these opportunities in the future. When I came to UNR in the fall of 2007, I thought I wanted to be a nurse, but then I failed chemistry. This was the best thing that ever happened to me because it brought me to Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS). The mission of HDFS is preventative action. We look at an issue before it becomes a problem. We look at at-risk individuals and find ways to help them before something bigger happens. Preventative action has always been a passion of mine and I was lucky to find a program that believes in the same things that I do. It is better to educate young people, teens and young adults about the benefits of good nutrition and healthy lifestyles because this increases one's quality of life. It is also a lot more cost-effective than treating type II diabetes and other diseases associated with poor health. To intervene and take a child out of an abusive, violent home is much better than having that child develop psychological and behavioral issues. It is a lot cheaper than incarcerating that child when they become an adult. Our mission in HDFS is to help those people before something bad happens that we will not be able to fix.

Through HDFS I have met wonderful people and I have had fantastic professors. Through the Child and Family Research Center I have met families and children who make my life better. Next semester, I might not be able to see them anymore because of these cuts, and that makes me sad. I love those children.

I am not an involved student. I do not go to games. I do not participate in ASUN activities. I have never attended a rally. But I have been inspired by everyone in this room to speak up and use my voice. I hope you are inspired by the words of my colleagues. I hope you take all of our thoughts into consideration.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

Has your program been proposed for elimination?

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 16

MS. POINDEXTER:

Yes, it always is up for elimination.

JAYMEE OXBORROW:

I am a natural born Nevadan and my family has lived here for more than five generations. I am a social work major and a member of the Undergraduate Student Social Work Association. I am actively fighting these budget cuts because social work has been proposed for elimination. I am not just fighting for the School of Social Work, I am also fighting for education. I come from a long line of teachers in this State and over the past six years, I have seen how depleted our educational resources have become. My mother is a teacher, and each year she has to use more of her own money to buy supplies for her students.

Senator McGinness' comments to the *Las Vegas Sun* were ridiculous. My grandparents educated Senator McGinness in Fallon when he was growing up. It is disgraceful that he forgot what they did for him.

People do not realize that if we continue to cut education, we will become more of a laughingstock. If you force students to leave this State to attend college elsewhere, they are lucky to get in because of how bad Nevada's public school system has become. We need to improve education to improve the State for the long run. If you keep cutting education, the recession will just get worse and last longer. As elected officials, it is your job to help us get out of the recession. If you continue these budget cuts, you will put us farther into the recession. If you invest in education, you will bring more businesses to the State because they will be willing to hire us and the companies that move here will be willing to put their own children in our education system.

I have a few suggestions to create revenue to help pay for education in this State. First, we need to change the way we tax the mines. Instead of taxing the net income, we should tax their gross income because then they will not be able to lie and write off business expenses. Second, we should limit the loopholes for mining in the *Constitution of the State of Nevada*. Third, we should increase alcohol and tobacco revenue. If we increase those taxes, people will be less likely to smoke and drink, which will save our health care system money in the long run. Fourth, we should tax rich Nevadans who go to high-end salons. If



Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 17

they can afford luxury expenses on a regular basis, they can afford to help pay for education. I recently heard on Channel 2 News that we collected \$200 million in taxes in the month of January. We should invest that money in education to help bring us out of the Dark Ages. We are on a path toward destruction if we continue making cuts to education.

My dad had to move to Elko to follow construction jobs because there are no jobs in Reno. If we invest in education, businesses will come and give people like my father a job. My mom has had to take less hours at work. My sister could not come to UNR because the degree she wanted to pursue was cut two Legislative Sessions ago. I encourage you to find new ways to fund education and help us get out of the Dark Ages and into modern life.

MICHAEL MCCRAVEN:

I am from Assembly District 31 and I live in Sparks, Nevada. As you can see by the large crowd behind me, we care. I could talk to you today from a professional angle. As an education major, I know all the statistics. I could tell you the relationships between school funding. I could tell you that good teachers create career viability in this State. I could tell you that without decent feeder schools, many businesses that would seek college graduates will not come to this State. But, you have already heard all of this and you know the numbers better than I do.

You know that we have a plethora of mineral wealth in this State. You also know that our funding of mineral extraction bankrolls the profit margins of foreign-held companies.

The sagebrush is a symbol in our State. It is not the prettiest plant, but it is one of the toughest. You cannot get rid of sagebrush if you try. Our State animal is the Desert Bighorn Sheep, a symbol of stubbornness, strength and power. Yet, here we are, cowering, sitting in comfortable chairs in an air-conditioned building and not dealing with the struggle going on at the University level. Please remember that these students are Nevadans. Even the students who come from out of state, the students who have never before shown an interest in politics, they are Nevadans too and that is why they came here today. They have a vested interest. We are Nevadans because we are tough and we can

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 18

survive despite fortuitous circumstances. We are simply asking for the tools to help us survive.

MATTHEW POLASKO:

I am a graduate of Green Valley High School and soon to be a graduate of UNR, after which I will go on to medical school. I would like to tell you about what I have seen over the past four years. Every year, UNR has faced growing budget cuts. Everyone is aware of the valuable researchers we have lost, personnel laid off and programs already cut. Yet, during this same time, enrollment has grown and students have won international awards. This year alone, we have one Truman Scholarship and two Goldwater Scholarship recipients. There will be more national fellowships and scholarships to come. Students have represented this University in both the national and international arenas, in fields such as civil engineering, biochemistry, marketing, journalism, debate and more. There is unseen work done by students who volunteer at nonprofits. They sacrifice their energy for the community.

The culture at this University has changed over the past four years. We are a lean, mean, educating machine. You have starved the beast and trimmed the fat. Any further cuts beyond President Glick's proposed budget, let alone Governor Sandoval's, will not be eliminating fat. It will be eliminating muscle, kidneys, the heart, brain and soul of this University. You will effectively be eliminating all the hard work the students, faculty and administration have put into this University to do their part in fighting back these budget cuts. I ask this Committee and the Legislature to come together to set aside ideological differences to balance the budget and save higher education. If you need to know what is worse than compromising your ideology, try compromising your children's future, try compromising Nevada's best hope for building a twenty-first century workforce.

TIMOTHY CASENTINI:

I have submitted my written testimony ([Exhibit J](#)) for the record.

JONATHAN PRICE (Nevada State Geologist; Director, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology):

I worked in Yerington years ago and have worked at UNR since 1988. The Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) is a State research and public

service unit that serves as the State's geological survey. The NBMG was established by the Legislature and we are one of the statewide programs at UNR. The University has announced plans to cut state funding for NBMG from approximately \$2.1 million a year to about \$1 million a year. This is a 53 percent reduction. This proposed cut is so severe that we will not be able to continue all the statutory functions with which we have been tasked. It will cause Nevada to lose money, miss economic opportunities and diminish our ability to protect and serve our citizens and visitors as well as we should. I have highlighted examples of how NBMG contributes to the State of Nevada in my written testimony ([Exhibit K](#)). I have specific examples in geothermal energy, urban development and mineral resources. The NBMG also helps to reduce risks from natural hazards, including earthquakes and floods.

I urge you to fund NBMG at a level that covers its statutory functions. I urge you to look at the whole University and the entire NSHE to fund these institutions at levels that allow Nevada to prosper.

Earthquakes are a big deal in Nevada. In 2008, there was a large earthquake in Wells, Nevada. The chance of having an earthquake of that size in Las Vegas is equal to the chance of it happening in Wells, but it already happened there. We must continue to work on reducing risks from earthquakes and other hazards. I have submitted our guide to earthquakes here in Nevada ([Exhibit L, original is on file in the Research Library](#)) to help you understand the importance of NBMG.

BONNY PEACOCK:

I graduated from Beatty High School in Beatty, Nevada, in 1992. The State is facing some difficult decisions right now and I do not believe that education is any more sacred than many of the other programs that you are looking to cut. I am here on behalf of the nontraditional student population. Shortly after high school, I went to trade school. I got an excellent job with good benefits. In the Spring of 2007, I had a skiing accident that my orthopedic surgeon described as "spectacular." My accident ended my career. I did not qualify for job retraining, so I lost my house and went through bankruptcy. I came back to school full time in 2008. I have two children.

Nationwide, 40 percent of all college students are nontraditional, but only one-third of them graduate. The two primary reasons that they fail to graduate

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 20

are too many commitments and the fact that college is too expensive. I know that having too many commitments was a problem for my family. It was impossible for my significant other and I to have a household, raise two kids and for me to go back to school. I worked part-time when I first started school. The expenses have been difficult. It costs me about \$20,000 a year to attend school, once you add everything up. I am afraid to look at my loans. If tuition increases at the rate that UNR is discussing, attending college will not be an option for families who want to stay in Nevada.

DESTINY RAIKAS:

I am from Reno. I am here as a person, not a number. I am a first-generation college student. Finding the money to come to college has been a challenge. It is only because I got scholarships and because UNR has low in-state tuition that I can afford to go to college. I do not even want to think about loans because I am not sure if my major will be offered at UNR. My biochemistry major is not immediately in danger, but there are hundreds of us in this major. There are hundreds of others who also have 4.0 grade point averages and the same scholarships that I do.

What sets UNR apart from others? It is the minor programs. These are the programs you are trying to cut. I would like to see all the social work, fine arts, French and other majors whose programs are being cut to stand up. Please notice all the students who have stood. As you can see, these students do not consider their programs the "least important." If you cut these programs, these students will have to leave the State of Nevada to further their education. You are kicking them out of this State and their University. And if these students go to school out of state, they might not come back to Nevada.

It is an insult to the integrity of the Legislature that these cuts are even an option on the table. The fact that we are here discussing cuts to education is an insult. Education should not be an option to cut a budget deficit.

RICHARD STEWART:

I teach business and economics for Western Nevada College at the Fallon Campus (WNC). My maternal grandfather was born in Virginia City. My mother was born in Reno. My father moved to Nevada in 1936 and both my parents graduated from UNR. I am proud to be a Nevadan, or at least I was. I want to

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 21

speaking on behalf of the six counties other than Carson City that are served by WNC. I wish to address four things: rural closures, campus combinations, tax collections and a few suggestions.

I find it strange that we are cutting back so much on the rural effort at WNC. Carson City has approximately 30 percent of our school population. To put it in Las Vegas terms, this is like asking Las Vegans to come to Reno to go to school. I would like to see rural services continue. There has been discussion about merging WNC and Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and this may be inevitable. When you look at the Senate, you see the north-south population ratios; likewise, with the Board of Regents. Excluding the Desert Research Institute, there are four college or university presidents in the north and only three in the south, despite the fact that 70 percent of our population is in the south. So even without cost savings, the symbolism indicates fewer presidents in the north. Furthermore, when WNC and TMCC were split 35 years ago, TMCC was going to take care of urban needs and WNC, the rural needs. This is not happening the way it should.

Finally, there is a strategic reason. If you look at the U.S. Highway 395 corridor, it is growing together. In another 20 or 30 years, it will be one metropolitan area. It would make strategic sense to merge these two institutions.

I do not believe in higher taxes. I am not asking for more money, even though I probably should. You need to look at the tax structure. My old professor Glen Atkinson and my old classmate Ted Olson did a study of the tax structure. They discovered that it only paid to bring mining and gaming to Nevada. Those two industries are the only ones that produce enough tax revenues to cover the costs of the services that are necessary. I do not know of any major changes since then. We cannot afford to support the tax refugees that love our low taxes. Nevadans do not like taxes. They are happy to let others pay those taxes. But it is nice to pay your own way.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 22

The Board of Regents' presence needs to be here. We need to realign our missions and purposes. We need to keep in mind that community colleges take education to the communities. All these communities are funded by the State, just like the school district.

Nevada needs a rainy-day fund so that we have money when things do not go so well. I doubt that such a fund could have solved our current problems, but it would certainly help. We need to diversify our economy and we need to work on our tax structure. If we had fewer earmarks, we would have greater flexibility in planning.

I have not made promises educators like to make. I have not asked for funding and I believe that education is an investment for the future. If we do not invest, we are going to have to pay far greater costs.

I would like to throw up two warning flags. The first is centralization. The Soviet Union came down because of centralization. We should not just try to run things from Carson City, Reno or Las Vegas. We need to put the resources where revenues are collected. Secondly, we cannot afford to balance our budget on those who can least afford to pay, those without power, those whose vote is negated or cannot vote. If this happens, Nevada will fail. I have submitted a complete copy of my testimony ([Exhibit M](#)) for the record.

SUSAN CHANDLER:

I am on the faculty of the School of Social Work. I have been at UNR for 19 years. Yesterday morning, the Provost came and assured us that the School of Social Work will not be cut. We are not sure we can believe that. If that is true, we want to thank everyone who advocated for us.

We learned a lot during the weeks that we thought our school would be cut. We know that we cannot be divided north from south, program from program. We can no longer lay low and hope that someone else gets cut. Today, we are advocating for education throughout Nevada, both north and south. We also need adequate social services.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 23

Raise revenue, raise Nevada. I often hear people say that people in Nevada do not care about education. I do not believe that is true. I think our citizens care as much about Nevada and as much about education as citizens in any other state. I have spent most of my time at UNR studying low-income, casino families. I can assure you that the tax structure in Nevada is not a legacy of those families, nor is it a legacy of the people in this room. Our tax structure is a legacy of the economic powers that govern our state, like mining and gaming. I urge you to look at Senator Leslie's and Assemblywoman Pierce's legislation.

As a female faculty member, I must also express the concerns of female faculty and staff at UNR and at other institutions. There is a perception among female faculty that women are being much harder hit with these cuts than men. It seemed that way when the Provost came to our School and he was 1 man amongst 14 women. When the administrators of NSHE testify before you, please ask them if they have thought about the differential impact of the cuts on women.

STEVE MATTOS:

I am 32 years old. I am a tradesman and a Carson City District, Bureau of Land Management, firefighter. I am in school so that I do not have to die for my vocation. I do not have a Millennium Scholarship. I do not have parents who can help me pay for school. I have loans and I have increasing debt. It seems to me that I have entered into a mutual agreement with UNR. I have agreed to pay for required classes, books and the privilege of learning here. I have agreed to maintain a certain grade point average. At the very least, in return it seems reasonable to assume that UNR has a responsibility to make it possible for me to uphold my end of the agreement. I have paid for classes. I have paid for books. I have kept up my grade point average. As a direct result of budget cuts, I have not been able to enroll in required language classes. To maintain my enrollment status, I am forced to continue taking classes that I do not need in order to graduate.

Failing to uphold my end of the agreement has serious consequences for me. If UNR fails to uphold its end, there is no loss to anyone but me. If they fail to uphold their agreement, UNR still gets paid, my loan companies still get paid and students like me get cheated. I feel caught in a trap and I feel hoodwinked. Without access to classes, I have no incentive to finish my education. Education

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 24

has become an expensive hobby at best and worst, a detriment. I could be out making money today.

I am disillusioned. I am angry. I am here to tell you to do your jobs and make this situation right. Forgive me if I do not say thank you.

JAMES D. STRANGE:

The layoff process has begun at WNC. Official notices will be given to a number of my longtime colleagues tomorrow. Every one of these dedicated educators is devastated. Their professional world is crashing in on them. Ironically, in the end, they may not be laid off at all. The layoff notices are going out because no one knows how the budget will turn out. We have been told to prepare for the worst. Even if the proposed budget cuts are reduced, and my colleagues keep their jobs, the damage will have been done and the bell cannot be unrung.

The truth is that the Legislature is playing political games. The Republicans are refusing to do anything but stand behind the Governor's inflexible, "no new taxes" pledge. The Democrats are playing a game of chicken in hopes that a few Republicans from each house will flinch. These games are destroying peoples lives. I beg you to stop the games and the partisanship. Sit down in good faith and cooperatively arrive at a bipartisan budget solution that is good for the people of this State. Then, gather your courage, walk to the Capitol and tell the Governor, "Your budget plan does not work. Here is a better plan." Stand behind that plan, even if it requires a veto override. I beg you, stop the insanity and support education.

ALISON TURNER (President, Nevada PTA):

Usually I testify on behalf of kindergarten through Grade 12 education (K-12). However, the members of the Nevada PTA are also deeply concerned about proposed cuts to NSHE. Many of our members have children attending Nevada colleges and universities. Many of our teachers are graduates of Nevada colleges and universities. Our members understand that preschool through graduate school education is about jobs, economic development and diversifying Nevada's economy. Colorado, Texas, North Carolina, Massachusetts and other states understand that they need to invest in education and they reap the benefits of that investment.



Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 25

One of my members recently told me, "I have told my high school students to plan to apply to college anywhere, as long as it is outside of Nevada, because higher education and its future are too uncertain in this State." Another member said, "I've made sure that my children plan to settle anywhere other than the State of Nevada, because Nevada is going down and I don't see any chance for it to come back."

I was startled by these statements because I have not had people talk to me in those terms before. I have been doing this work for a number of years and have not heard anything else like that until now. The decisions you make during this Legislative Session are not just about the next biennium. The decisions you make will have very serious consequences for the State of Nevada for decades to come. Members of my association join me to urge you to keep this in mind and to remember that the future of the State is in your hands now more than ever before.

MARIA RENÉ CASTEDO:

I am a freshman at UNR and I plan on being a nurse. Last semester, I was a full-time student taking 16 credits. Although I did have the Millennium Scholarship, I still had to work about 30 hours a week to afford school. This semester, I am still a full-time student, but to cut my tuition costs I am taking classes at both UNR and TMCC. I understand that my tuition is not as big as it is in other states, but I cannot afford to stop going to school. These cuts are not going to help Nevada. Students are only going to pack up and leave this wonderful State. I understand that we need to make sacrifices to get out of the recession, and I am okay with that, but it seems that the only ones making sacrifices are social workers and those in education. Why are we the only ones making sacrifices? We are not the only ones living here. Why have the rich not made sacrifices? Or the mining companies? Why are you not making sacrifices? We are already last in education, so cutting programs like the Latino Research Center or the Renewable Energy Program, something that will help Nevada grow, will not make education better. If anything, we need to invest in education.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 26

"Home means Nevada." I want to keep it that way. Unfortunately, I am not sure "Home means Nevada" will be an accurate statement if you pass this budget. I have submitted a written copy of my testimony ([Exhibit N](#)) for the record.

DARYL DRAKE:

I am an alumnus of UNR. I have submitted my prepared remarks ([Exhibit O](#)) for the record, but I would like to say a few things. First, I want to thank Chair Horsford for his briefing on economic development this afternoon. Economic development relies on education. The Legislature cannot do this alone. We need other people here to help. The Governor is not here this afternoon, but I think for the messages we hear today to have an impact, people like him need to hear these students. Your decisions on this matter must be deliberate, determined and collaborative. This Legislative Session is unlike any that I have ever seen. We are already half-way done and there is still so much left on the agenda that must get done.

I am an advocate of the Spending and Government Efficiency Commission (SAGE) Commission. I know that the Commission was viewed with a jaundiced eye by many people, but because of the economic crisis, SAGE was an extremely important 18-month effort. Education was not a part of the charter that created SAGE. We have not had an independent review of education, both K-12 and NSHE. Nonetheless, the efforts undertaken by the Board of Regents to improve efficiency and effectiveness will be very helpful. President Glick and Provost Mark Johnson developed and implemented the curricular review last year which was based on productivity and student demand. If a similar review was conducted throughout NSHE, it would be very helpful. We would learn the true impact of these cuts. I believe these cuts will be extremely devastating to this institution.

I like the metaphor used by a previous speaker about a horse and buggy driving down I-80. A commitment to review the fiscal policy in this State will be the most important thing to come out of this Legislature. Our fiscal policy is antiquated and it must be changed.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 27

STEVE LADEN:

I have lived in Reno for 28 years. I spent six years on the Board of Directors for the Education Collaborative for Washoe County. For two of those years, I was President. I am Speaker Ocegüera's appointee to Nevada's Council to Establish Academic Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 12. My wife has been a faculty member at UNR for 27 years. As a family, we have an incredible investment in UNR, not only professionally, but personally. We have put in personal time and volunteered here in trying to make our kindergarten through Grade 16 education system the best it can possibly be. My son is a sophomore in college at the University of Oregon. In a way, it was devastating. We have personally invested a lot in this system and our son told us he does not see a future here. The rug has been pulled out from under my feet. Out of my son's ten closest friends, nine went to school out of state, including four National Merit Scholars. Those students will not be coming back and I know you can say the same about some of your own children and the children in your districts. We are losing our best brain power to schools out of state. Teachers and counselors are telling their students to leave the State. And many of the students who have stayed in Nevada are questioning their decision now that the rug has been pulled out from under them.

Professionally, I am an investment advisor in Reno. Two weeks ago, I took my UNR bonds, which many of my clients own, and I floated them out to my traders to find out what the marketplace thinks about what is happening in Nevada. My clients have millions of dollars invested in UNR bonds. Every single one of my UNR bonds came back 10 percent under any comparable market bond price. I watched a hearing last week where a financial consultant from CCSD testified. He was in touch with both Standard and Poor's and Moody's Analytics. These rating agencies are seriously considering downgrading the credit of UNR and the entire State. This is the image of this State that you are marketing to potential businesses relocating here. I have been a professional investor for 23 years and this is not how I want to build my portfolio and manage my investments. If we are going to court businesses from out of state and ask them to invest in the State of Nevada, what moral authority do we have to do so if we do not invest in ourselves first?

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 28

We have a unique opportunity right now because we are in crisis mode. We need to be creative. We need to be able to look to our leaders for dynamic leadership and creative thinking. Get your heads out of the sand and do the creative thinking. Provide the leadership that we are looking for. Come to a conclusion that we have to straighten out the revenue sources in this State. We can no longer live in the 1960s. Invest in this State before you ask others to invest. We are losing to the other states. I read the other day that North Dakota has a robust economy. I am embarrassed to call my former teachers who live here in Washoe County and tell them that I will not sell them a Nevada bond. I am telling them to buy bonds in North Dakota. This is the reality of how the United States marketplace is viewing the economic situation in this State. The debate you are having is affecting our bonds, our credit rating and our image. Get on with it.

COLLIER AZARE (President, Omega Delta Sigma):

I am a graduate of Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nevada. I am a Navy veteran, a psychology major and the President of Omega Delta Sigma, the new veterans fraternity here on campus. There are over 500 student veterans at UNR. That may not sound like a lot, but that is a record number of active student veterans in school. The post-September 11, 2001 GI Bill made this possible, but it has flooded our Veterans Services Office.

For the most part, we are not Vietnam veterans. Since September 11, 2001, we have been doing our job and supporting our country. We have been out of State and out of touch because we have been away. I went into the military thinking I did not need to go to college, but when I got out and tried to find a job, I realized I needed a degree if I did not want to be a security officer at a mall. I began going to UNR, but have recently realized that my education will not count for much in ten years because we keep slashing the budget. Soon, my degree is going to be like I had gone to ITT Technical Institute. I would rather go to ITT and pay their prices than go to UNR, get the same type of degree, but pay Stanford-level tuition.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 29

The reality is, these cuts did not just happen. They have been building up for years. Legislators in the past have let this build up. This is a lack of foresight from a lot of people. I have heard a lot of ideas about revenue sources from a number of students around campus, but we do not see the same level of ideas coming from the Legislature. That bothers me. If students who do not have degrees can find ways to create new revenue in this State, why can the Legislature not do this as well? This is an issue.

We have been fighting a war for the past ten years, whether we agreed with it or not. We did not have a choice. We went there and we did our job. We are asking you now to do your job.

CASEY BURKE-RUHL (Vice President, Alpha Psi Omega):

I am a senior at UNR and a theater major. At some point in their life, every person has thought creatively. I am sure you have when you were a child drawing pictures. Budget cuts kill creative thinking. They kill motivation. They kill morale. In February, theater students went to Arcadia, California, to compete for a national title at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Six amazing actors, including myself, went to compete for a national theater scholarship. Another group went for a singing contest and they made it to the finals. If we have students who can make it to the finals of a national competition, I know we have something good here. Budget cuts will take this away.

The students at UNR are dedicated. I want every creative thinker in this room to stand up. Every single person in this room is standing. We bring together the best and the brightest students. Let us prove it to you. Come see our shows. Come see *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. You will see the passion and dedication in every single one of our faces. You will see the dedication in every line we speak, in every step we take. We do think differently than other majors. We do not take the straight path to find the answers. We meander and curve and twist in all different directions and we find better answers to our problems. We will fight tooth and nail for our education. Even when those teeth and nails are gone, we will find new ways of fighting budget cuts, because that is what we do as creative thinkers. Look at the faces in this room. These are the people you answer to and there are more of us out there. Even though we are from different departments, creative thinkers will always unite as one.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 30

One of the great American playwrights, Eugene O'Neill, won the Nobel Prize for Literature for his plays. I want to do the same.

BENJAMIN DYER (President, Alpha Psi Omega):

I am a technical theater major at UNR. I will be graduating in May with my bachelor's of fine arts degree. I work for the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival over the summer. Over the past eight years, the Festival has been struggling. They could not get a foothold. The companies who ran it could not make it work. They were losing money hand over fist. And then they began working with the UNR Theater Department, building sets in our scene shop. They use our stock platforms for their shows. Because of this collaboration, they have been able to get a solid foothold. The theater at Sand Harbor holds 1,200 people. The cheapest tickets are \$30 and the most expensive tickets are \$250. People come to our State to see these shows. They are buying things while they are here because of this theatrical experience. These tourists pay for lodging, food and other entertainment. If our theater department disappears, the Festival will disappear along with it. We might lose all the people who come to visit, not to mention all the union workers who come to help set up the stage. That Festival is very closely connected to this University.

I came here straight from work and my pants are torn. I have a giant hole in my back right pocket where I keep my wallet. The hole is getting bigger very slowly. Eventually, the hole will get so big that my wallet falls out. When that happens, I will not keep these pants. I will throw them away and get new ones. If my wallet cannot be held in them, then I will not keep these pants. Please think about this when you talk about taxes and budget cuts. If it will not hold my money safely, I am not going to keep it.

ELISA HANNA:

I am a graduate student at UNR. I moved here about seven years ago. This State has some of the lowest corporate taxes in the country and has for decades. If all businesses were interested in was low taxes, we would be the most diversified State in the Nation. This has not happened because businesses have overwhelmingly told us that they will not move here until we invest in education. The current plan to continue to have excessively low taxes, while cutting education, goes against everything business has been telling us that they want in order to come here. Experts have said that the past tax system is

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 31

never going to work again. It is done. Businesses have said they have no interest moving to a State that does not support education. If our true goal is to bring jobs to this State, jobs at every level, we must listen to what businesses have told us. We must invest in our education system, both K-12 and higher education. There is no other option.

The definition of insanity is repeating the same behaviors and expecting a different outcome.

GENE GARDELLA:

I am a native Nevadan. I was born in East Ely, lived in Pioche, went to elementary school in Yerington, graduated from Reno High School and went to UNR. My granddaughter is a junior at UNR and will be a fourth-generation graduate of this University. We have paid taxes for many years here. We have personally invested by writing checks to the Board of Regents. On this campus you can see buildings named after people like Whittemore, Mackay, Mathewson, Pillsbury, Hart, and Harrah. These are people who made investments in UNR. I have also made investments in this University and our K-12 education system through the Washoe Risk Taskforce and the Standards Committee.

I am greatly disturbed that we are forced to make NSHE administrators make false decisions. I will give you an example of a false decision. About ten years ago, we realized we needed more nurses. The University improved their program and TMCC developed a program. Now, TMCC is looking at terminating its nursing program because it is expensive and they are faced with making cuts. It makes no sense to cut nursing. It is something we need and we know we are going to need it in the future. They have the choice to cut nursing or they cut a number of other programs to balance their budget. I hear a lot of people talk about balancing the State budget. Families also have to balance budgets. Families chose to cut out cigarettes, going to the movies and getting rid of their pets. Many families also get a second job, they work extra hours, they ask for a raise and they start another business. Families look at increasing revenue. We cannot do everything that needs to be done to balance our budget with cuts alone. I do not believe that any of you are here to oversee the dismantlement of the education system in this State. But the Governor has painted himself into a

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 32

corner and the Republican Legislators have painted themselves into a corner. They have left us only false decisions on how we can deal with this problem.

Our revenue system is antiquated. A number of studies have recognized Nevada's system as outdated. Our system does not provide a regular revenue stream. I do not know how you run the State budget, but I am a small businessman and if I had swings in my budget like the State does, it would drive me crazy. We need to find a way to continue the taxes that are scheduled to sunset. We need to increase mining revenue. They are making a lot of money and they should contribute more. We should continue the business tax. I pay that tax and it is not a lot of money. We need to fill this budget hole right now and the way to do it is to address the opportunities before you.

Please, start doing things to fix the budget so we do not put ourselves in this horrible situation again.

KAREN FAEHLING:

I am testifying as a private citizen and taxpayer in Washoe County. I am a native Nevadan born in Reno. I attended public schools in Reno and graduated from Reno High School. I have both an undergraduate and a graduate degree from UNR. I am a social worker. My sister and I were first-generation college graduates. Education was extremely important to my father who grew up in the Nevada State Orphans Home in Carson City. Higher education and K-12 are also very important to me for many reasons. I have ten grandchildren in public schools in Nevada. My immediate family has 12 degrees from NSHE, including 8 undergraduate degrees, 1 graduate degree from UNR, 1 from the UNR Medical School and an undergraduate and master's from UNLV.

Gutting higher education and K-12 education is not an acceptable option in Nevada. Our community needs good quality schools to increase the education in this State, as well as a well-educated work force. An educated workforce will also help to raise the quality of life in Nevada. As a native Nevadan, I am saddened, disgusted and ashamed that we are at the top of the bad lists and the bottom of the good lists. We need to raise revenue for education and improve the quality of life in Nevada. Our tax structure has changed very little since the 1950s. Think about how different our State is today from when I was in elementary school. A recent poll in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* showed that



Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 33

over 50 percent of people supported a tax increase. I suspect that number will continue to increase as the budget cuts are proposed. We want a State of which we can be proud. I want to live in a State where all of our children and college students are able to receive an excellent education, not just those who can afford to pay more. I want to live in a State that looks seriously at our problems of mental illness, suicide rates and childhood hunger. Too many of our families are homeless. These are the social issues which need continued funding.

Well-educated Nevadans can help alleviate these problems and help grow our economy. My husband and I are willing to pay more taxes, however, we would hope you would also look at other ways of raising revenue in Nevada. We need a bill that would close the loophole on how taxes on mining are assessed. Raise revenue. Raise Nevada. I have submitted a complete copy of my testimony ([Exhibit P](#)) for the record.

MARY HYLTON:

I am a taxpayer, a voter, a member of the UNR School of Social Work faculty and a single mother of an adopted child. I want to share the importance of higher education in local communities with you. My daughter came into life with multiple disadvantages, none of which were her own doing. When she first came to my home, she was behind in almost every developmental area, including speech, fine motor, cognitive and social-emotional skills. Through the excellent work of her social workers at Washoe County Social Services, she was connected to a multitude of services, including neurological assessments, early Head Start and Nevada Early Intervention Services. She received the assistance of an occupational therapist, a speech therapist, a neurologist, two excellent preschool teachers and a developmental therapist. Today, due to the services she has received, she is now above average in speech, cognition and social-emotional skills. My daughter was able to make these gains due to the support she had from highly educated and well-trained professionals.

As her adoptive mother, I will take it from here. However, I hope our story illustrates the importance of these services, as well as the education that prepared these professionals. I ask that you reconsider alternatives to the budget cuts proposed by Governor Sandoval. I am hopeful about some of the revenue generating bills submitted by Assemblywoman Pierce. I have submitted a complete copy of my testimony ([Exhibit Q](#)) for the record.

STERLING HALL:

Two minutes to explain my resentment for these budget cuts is too short. I was born and raised here in Nevada. Like a lot of true Nevadans, I am poor. My income is about \$4,000 under the poverty level. The only job I was able to find, I might lose. I have a work-study job at UNR, but with this budget, it is likely to be cut. Please keep this in mind and it would be nice if you actually listened to the poor people of Nevada, especially when you are the ones helping to create the poor.

To clarify, no one is angry that you are trying to fix our budget. Nevada's financial situation is one of the worst in the Nation and trying to balance our budget to fix it requires people with extreme courage and temerity. We are not angry because you have tried to fix the budget. We are angry because you have not fixed it. You all lack the courage to take the necessary measures that would solve this financial crisis. Instead, you protect the economic status quo and propose a budget that will throw Nevada even further into economic disparity. You target your personal political scapegoats, teachers and students. These are the very people who form the backbone of this economy. You have taken this well-worn path too many times now and we are tired of it. Your problem is one of methodology. You were presented an economic hole and were given the task of filling it, but you never examined the root causes of such a problem. You did not take the time to blink, sit back and think about other avenues you could pursue to balance this budget. You took one look at the problem and thoughtlessly decided to cut one of the few hopes the State currently has, education. At the moment, Nevada stands 50th in the Nation in regards to education and this is in no way the fault of the teachers and students. Teachers are underpaid and underrespected for their work. Do not even think of having the audacity to blame teachers for these problems as an attempt to throw the burden of responsibility off of yourselves. Students simply want to get an education in the things that interest them. These are the things you are forcing

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 35

us to cut. Our standing in education is not due to the hard work of the people before you, but the lack of work. A lack of work, mind you, that we pay for.

Governor Sandoval has asked us to sacrifice for the good of our State, but we have already done that. Time and time again we have borne the weight of your mistakes on our shoulders. I ask you, where is your sacrifice? Where have you cut back on your bourgeois extravagance for the good of this State? You have not and we know it. Just now, I spoke of the lack of courage here. I misspoke. There is an immense amount of courage here today, but it is from the people gathered here to oppose the budget. Courage is here in the people sitting in this audience. Where is your courage?

MATT FORD:

I am a history and political science student at UNR. I recently added a minor in French and I hope you keep that program around. I would like to study abroad.

I would like to thank Chair Horsford for wearing one of the pins I designed that says, "Invest in Nevada by investing in us." I think that pin is symbolic of what we are trying to achieve here. We can all rally behind the idea of investing in our State. I see education as the best way to do that. As a history major, I look back at the other great civilizations like the Greeks, Romans and the British. They are not remembered for their tax rate, they are remembered for what they built. They are remembered for giving birth to people like Plato and Socrates. They are remembered for building the aqueducts and the Coliseum. They are remembered for building the Suez Canal and controlling one-quarter of the globe. These things were not caused by low tax rates. They were caused by investments in people, science and education. I believe that is what we need to do here.

I understand that you have a difficult choice. These are very tough times economically and we have a lot of hard choices to make. We also have a lot of easy choices to make. I think that cutting education is one of those easy choices to make. It is harder to say that we are going to pay more to accomplish something than to say we are going to pay less. It is easier for people to hear that there are going to be lower taxes than to explain to them that the costs will ultimately benefit them and their State in the long run. We have a choice. We can make the hard, but courageous choice of funding

education and preventing this State from being drawn further into the recession. We also have a very easy choice. This would mean continuing on our current path, which is to cut education funding and relegate it to the back burner in terms of our State's priorities. I believe this will lead us back to the Dark Ages. They do not call them the Dark Ages because they ran out of light bulbs. They call it the Dark Ages because they did not have education. If we are going to get out of this recession, education is the way to do that. I hope you realize that even if you are opposed to it, I urge you to reconsider. I urge you to realize the value education can have in this State. I urge you to realize that the choices you make will be judged by me 40 years from now, even if you spend the next half-century in public service. This choice will define your career. Please make it the right choice.

DOUGLAS HOWEY:

I am a secondary education major and these budget cuts threaten my ability to obtain an education. I am an older student. I am 30 years old. I am here to get an education. At one time, my life was frivolous. I had no ambition to get an education. Ignorance was bliss. My ways were a hamper on this society. Poverty was a way of life. I had no aspirations for a retirement fund or to own property. I claimed bankruptcy and had a criminal record. I am a native Nevadan and I was born at Washoe Medical Center. I have spent my entire life here. I was raised by a hardworking single mom who now has multiple sclerosis. Her condition challenged my old way of life and now I am here to make a difference, not just for my mom, but for our whole community. I want to be a teacher and pay forward my education.

You know more than me about generating revenue. I do not have an education yet. Please, be my representative. Do not create a ceiling of glass that will make me poor and undereducated, only able to see those more fortunate than myself. I did learn one thing over my last two years in school. Martin Luther called for an education when education was not valued. We now are here, calling for an education. We hope that you respond.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 37

SHERRY NEIL URBAN:

I am a Nevada resident, a Reno resident and the mother of a freshman at UNR. When I sent my daughter there, I expected it to be a full university. I expected that there would be drama, dance and all the other programs that have been at this University historically. I expected that the University would maintain its reputation, if not improve upon it. I am disappointed to hear about the potential cuts to degree programs and opportunities for students. I am stunned with the attitude in this State. Who thinks that a 31 percent cut to higher education is reasonable, especially after an 18 percent cut two years ago? I am shocked.

I believe burdens should be shared. Tax me. Please, tax me. We live in a society that expects community members to have the benefits of community. We expect to have fire safety, police protection and education. There is a burden that comes with these services and I believe that we should all be taxed. To say we are not taxing people is disingenuous. We are still going to have fees. Raising student fees is nothing more than putting the whole burden of taxation on students. I think it is wrong and morally reprehensible. I cannot believe this is happening.

We have a revenue problem. I am asking you as Legislators to "man up." This includes overriding Governor Sandoval's vetoes to bills that would promote and help education. Please do what it takes. We need a strategy. We know things are going to be vetoed, but what are we going to do about it? Please do something.

Nevada has the highest unemployment. Do we really think that denigrating NSHE is the answer? I do not.

MEGAN ZANDER:

I am a double major in history and theater at UNR. I love my majors. I am from Wells, Nevada. We are known for an earthquake and a car show. I have worked my entire life to come to college. My parents never saved anything for me. The summer before I came to UNR, I worked two jobs. I went to work at 9 a.m. and got home at 2 a.m. I am working a job right now and double majoring. The cuts that have already occurred have postponed my graduation. More tuition cuts will push that back further. I had dreams of going back to Wells and becoming a teacher, a judge, a public defender or a district attorney. Now, I am not sure if I

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 38

can do that because our State is not doing well. I am now looking at graduate school in Utah. Please think about what you are doing. Please think about the impact on current students and future generations. I know you are trying to do your best, but please fight to the bitter end as I would gladly do.

MEGHAN KIRWIN:

I am an undergraduate student at UNR pursuing a bachelor's of fine arts in performance theater. When I graduated from high school, I was not sure I wanted to go to UNR. I wanted to go to an out-of-state school because I thought the education would be better. Then, I realized that UNR had a diverse curriculum and a great theater program and those factors convinced me to stay. Since I have been here, the theater and dance departments have grown tremendously. In the next semester, the theater department will be producing a show that will bring international attention to our program. A lot of hard work and money have gone into UNR in the past few years. That is how we are attracting the level of talent and diversity in students and faculty. With these budget cuts, everything will go to waste. It is up to you to make sure this does not happen.

SAM DUGAN:

I am a biochemistry major with a minor in physics at UNR. I want to go to medical school at UNR. I am a triplet. My sister goes here as well. We all got into colleges across the country. I got into six different universities. I was offered money at all of them, but I chose to come here. Part of that decision was that schools in California were cutting programs. I do not want to see that happen here. I want to see that the best and brightest Nevada has to offer come to UNR. I love this school, I love the people. You may not be cutting anything in biochemistry right now, but I have to wonder if you start with this, where are you going to stop? I want you to stop right now. I am a scientist and I like numbers. I have two numbers to share with you. I have \$30 in my checking account. Please take it out in taxes. Give it to the institutions across this State. My second number is zero. This is the number of times I will vote for someone who chooses to cut education.

TANJA HAYES:

I am a UNR graduate. I have a master's degree in economics from Columbia University. I teach here at UNR. I love doing so and I think it is an important job.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 39

However, my department was cut during the last round of budget cuts. I am disheartened and discouraged at losing my position and by all these cuts. I am wondering if I will have to leave this State to find a good job. There is not much to apply for here when you are a well-educated person. I am also the parent of three young children and a part of Parent Leaders for Education. I have been to several town hall meetings over the last several months. I am hearing a clear message at these meetings. We want to pay more taxes. We want a reformed tax system that ensures a stable revenue stream. We want education and social services prioritized and funded. We want you to do your jobs. Jobs you are privileged to have. You have two major options. First, you can raise tax revenue. Second, you can cut education and vital programs. Both of these are hard roads to take, but only one will lead us to a better, brighter future. If you want data to back up the case for why taxes are better than cuts at this time, I refer you to Professor Elliott Parker in the Economics Department. We need new taxes, not new cuts.

DEBORAH ACHTENBERG:

I am the chair of the Department of Philosophy. I am the chair of the Religious Studies Program. I am the former director of the Women's Studies Program. I am a member of the Gender and Race Identity Program. First, I am very concerned with the level of cuts that we are making at UNR, especially considering we are announcing \$17 million more in cuts next week and there could be more cuts after that. I am very concerned about the temptation to privatize basic programs. The experience of other campuses shows that doing so can lead to research tailored to the interests of private companies, rather than to the public good. This could also lead to limitations to academic freedom. What will happen to the types of critical thinking we need to develop the future of the State of Nevada should that happen?

Second, our university must provide for future economic growth, but must also provide an education for citizenship and that aspect of humanity that transcends citizenship. This means that the University must continue to provide more than basic skills training and applied research. It must also provide an education that includes basic research whose application is unclear, as well as a deep education that is challenging, creative and critical. I am dismayed at the loss of the German program and the possible loss of the French program. These cuts substantially downgrade the level of our College of Liberal Arts and the ability to

attract good students and faculty. I am also dismayed at the possible loss of the Department of Philosophy at UNLV.

Third, I am concerned about the possible differential impact of these cuts on programs that serve women and underrepresented groups. The loss of social work, the Women's Studies Program at UNLV, the Women's Research Institute, the Dance Program and the French Program, to name some.

Finally, we must continue educating Nevadans about the importance of education as an accessible public good. As a public good it benefits the State as a whole and should be supported by the State as a whole. No one group should be taxed to support it. This is what pay cuts and additional fees for certain programs mean. Taxing clerical staff, janitors, teachers and students for the good in which the State as a whole shares is not right. I support fair mining taxes, corporate profits taxes and other affordable taxation that I could pay.

Last week, the next speaker, Max Alderman, was named the top individual debater in the country at the National Parliamentary Debate Association Conference.

MAX ALDERMAN:

I graduated in 2007 from Reno High School as one of 16 National Merit Scholars. Out of that 16, only 3 came to UNR. I cannot speak for my peers, but I know I came to UNR because of the personal attention that was offered to me by faculty. There was an expectation that I would create close, personal relationships with people in areas in which I was interested. But with these budget cuts, you see the consolidation of programs, the elimination of staff, faculty and tenured lecturers, which makes it increasingly difficult for students to develop those kinds of relationships and increase research. I know that if I graduated today from Reno High School, I probably would not come to UNR. Maintaining the kind of academic standards that UNR has been responsible for makes it possible to bring the best and the brightest to the University. When we eliminate the types of programs that are necessary for that development, we eliminate the ability for students to create that research, create those relationships and develop new understanding that can only come through higher education.



Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 41

I also ask that we look at the programs that are being cut. Cutting programs is not your responsibility, it is the responsibility of the universities. With these cuts, however, we are cutting the programs that are used and defined for people who have been marginalized, people who are considered unimportant in the status quo. Gender, Race and Identity studies are getting cut. Philosophy is getting cut. Social work, nursing and languages are all getting cut. These programs are specifically designed for people who have been historically oppressed, historically ignored or are considered unimportant. When we get rid of these programs we lose empathy for those people. We lose empathy for people who are being oppressed and we make it difficult to develop solutions that are going to help them in the long term.

Businesses are attracted to educated people. In March, the *New York Times* reported that the number one reason businesses come to an area is because they have highly trained and highly educated workforces. Even if we have lower taxes, we are not going to increase the amount of businesses that come to Nevada. Even if we maintain competitive pricing for businesses, we will not increase the number of businesses that come to Nevada. Green Technology is drawn to education. It is drawn to a workforce that can support that business and make it possible for that business to run. I beg of you not to put power first, but to look to what you are responsible for, which is the maintenance of a State. Please do not cut our budgets.

JOSHUA MINDRUM:

I was born in Reno and grew up in Carson City. I now live in Churchill County. I am an alumnus of WNC with an associate's degree. I am a year away from finishing my bachelor's degree at UNR and I am also currently taking workforce development classes at TMCC. I am not here to denigrate. Life is hard and there are many choices to be made that will be just as difficult. Both your recommendations and the decisions of the full Legislature, based on those recommendations, will be difficult. Please consider this an opportunity to review and fix NSHE, including all institutions. We need to make a cohesive and unified body of instruction that supports one another in providing the natural coverage across the entire spectrum of higher education. Not every institution must be a doppelganger for every other one. Students need unique options and a unique college-level experience that offers them what they are interested in and need in higher education. This would enrich the entire system and allow

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 42

each individual student, both those Nevada born and those new to our State, to do what they love. We need institutions that can provide dedicated staff to support these students.

HELENA INSKEEP:

I know that for many of you, we are preaching to the choir. You know and respect our intentions. I am a junior at UNR majoring in history and theater. I grew up in Rancho Haven, which is an hour outside Reno in the middle of nowhere. I attended North Valleys High School and I direct the theater program there. I, along with over 1,200 other people, showed up in front of the Legislative building in Carson City on March 21, 2011. We showed up to tell you that we are not going to accept these cuts anymore. We are fighting for our right to be here. We are fighting for our right to tell you that we have been cut enough. We have been bled of everything and we refuse to allow the fatal blow. We are not going to allow you to kill our creativity, our knowledge or our future. My roommate and my friends cannot afford college as it is. My high school students have new hopes and dreams of a higher education. All of the people who have shown up here today and at the other rallies are depending on higher education to provide them a chance to live and grow. These opportunities should not be a luxury. Higher education should not be singled out for the upper class, but available to anyone with the passion for it. I beg you, I plead with you, let us have our future. Let us keep our dreams no matter what our past. Give us the chance to reach our dreams. It will not be long before the world is in our hands, but right now your hands create the mold. We rely on you to not just hear what we say, but to listen.

SARAH RODRIGUEZ:

I am a theater major and a Spanish minor. I am an advocate for education. This past weekend, theater changed my life. I attended a world-renowned workshop brought to UNR by the department. This workshop focused on Shakespeare and relaying his passion to make us passionate. Never in my life have I been so moved, so beyond words at the work my fellow actors and I were doing. The most captivating part was seeing everyone work as a singular entity, supporting each other, even when most emotionally vulnerable. I never really felt like I was truly part of something until I joined this theater program. Words cannot describe how honored I am to be part of this. Words cannot describe how passionate I feel about my theater program.

As a student, I hope and I pray that someday kids will find their passion through theater, the arts and dance, if they are still around. Once we ignite the flame, it can only grow brighter. With the right catalyst, it can explode into something that reaches out and sparks life in others. Where would our community be if we did not have creative thinkers? I have submitted a complete copy of my testimony ([Exhibit R](#)) for the record.

DONALD MAHONEY:

I am a theater major with a dance minor at UNR. I am here today to speak up, not just for myself, not just for all my fellow students here today, but for every potential future student coming down the line. The cuts to higher education proposed in this budget would be devastating to UNR. The University is a tapestry. Each program and course of study comprises the individual threads. When budget cuts force the removal or shortening of threads, the tapestry as a whole is weakened and will eventually fall apart. If this is allowed to happen, the past, present and future of UNR will be put into question.

Speaking specifically for myself and for my department, this budget has put us on the chopping block. Theater matters. Dance matters. The theater and dance programs benefit not just students studying these art forms, but also every person who attends one of our performances. The first time I set foot on this campus was to attend a dance concert. This program gives a face to UNR in the community and across the State. Last week, 12 dance program students and I represented UNR on the national level at the American College Dance Festival. In two weeks, the theater program's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* begins. It will bring upwards of 2,500 individuals onto campus, some possibly for the first time. I have submitted a complete copy of my testimony ([Exhibit S](#)) for the record.

ZOE SCOTT:

I am in 6th grade at Miguel Sepulveda Elementary School. I hope that you do not cut the budget anymore. Last year, one of my favorite teachers got cut and could not come back. One teacher from every grade in the entire school got cut. This was awful because I liked those teachers and they were my favorite teachers. I hope you do not do that again. I hope that I can come to UNR because it is a rocking University.

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 44

HEATHER ALLEN:

I am a UNR student. I transferred from TMCC and WNC. I am a junior with a triple major in secondary education, mathematics and science. It is my goal to change the future of our children in this State. Nevada is fifty-first in the United States with regards to education, superseded by the District of Columbia. We are also approaching a 15 percent unemployment rate. Those two numbers coincide with one another.

I am a substitute teacher for the Washoe County School District. When I substitute at Reno High School, I see that many students do not want to come to UNR. They turn up their noses at the idea because of the way you are treating UNR in the budget cuts. My significant other and father of my child is a student at TMCC and he is just getting started in his education. He worries about not getting into the classes he needs to graduate and finish his degree. We have a two year old and because of my student loans, I am going to be paying on the same box of diapers until I am 70 years old. I will be a teacher making only \$30,000 a year. How am I supposed to tell my daughter that I cannot afford her education because she is going to have to help me pay off my education?

As a teacher, a mother and a student, I beg you, please find another way than these budget cuts. Alaskans get money from the oil companies in exchange for allowing the oil companies to ravage their land and take their oil. Why are our mining companies not getting taxed for ravaging our land and taking our revenue?

ALEXANDRIA ARZIE:

I am here today to talk to you from my heart. I was born in Carson City and grew up in Fernley. I was a Silver Scholar in high school and I received the Millennium Scholarship. I was in student council. I started school in the fall of 2003, but I got sick and could no longer go to school. I lost my Millennium Scholarship because I got bad grades the semester I was ill. For three years, I worked three jobs and got four hours of sleep a night so that I could come back to school. I finally came back to school this spring. I worked hard over the past three years to pay off my student loans so I could come back to UNR. I did whatever I had to do so I could come back to school and get an education and make a better life for myself. I am asking you, the ones who make these

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 45

decisions, to do whatever you can to make sure that everyone in my position has the opportunity to further their lives and make them better. We need to build things up, not tear them down.

KAILA BRITT:

I am a nursing and art major at TMCC. I am a full-time student, a full-time employee and full-time mother of a child who will also be getting a public education in this State. When I found out about the budget cuts, I started putting together my exit plan. I grew up in Reno and lived in Seattle, Washington, for seven years before returning back home to this beautiful State. Now, I cannot wait to leave. I do not want to feel that way. I love this State. I do not want to rip my child out of the arms of her loving grandparents, but that is my only option. For both my education and for her education, I have to do this because we cannot afford these private schools. I am on a scholarship. I cannot afford tuition on my own. I depend on a strong education system. I want to work here. I want to live here. I want to raise a beautiful family here. I want what every other person in this State is asking for, a chance to prove ourselves to you. We want to prove that this State can be great. There is so much land, opportunity and growth here in this State. I am disappointed that I came home to all of this. I do not want to leave. I want to continue going to school. I do not want leaving to be an option. Please do what everyone is asking you to do. I know you have hearts and were once in this situation yourselves. If you were given the opportunity to speak for education, I am sure that you would have.

MICHAEL BAILEY:

I grew up in Reno and I am 27 years old. I love this State and I love living here. I have always given everything I can. If you want to tax us, please do. I do not have much money. I barely make \$1,200 a month. With that money I have to afford a place to live, a place for my daughter to live and my education. I go to TMCC and I can barely afford to go there, but it is the only option I have. I dreamt about going to UNR as a kid, but realized my dreams were not going to be a reality because no one could help me get there except for myself. I tried to save and realized I was saving for nothing. We need to figure out a better way to put money into our State. A State lottery would be a great way to raise money. We can go after the sacred cow of this State, the casinos. I know that is not something we normally do in this State, but we must figure something out fast. Otherwise, we are only going to have two options for this State. One,

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 46

you are going to legislate no one. Everyone is going to get up and leave this State because they have no other options. Every other state is doing the best they can. The state of Washington has an amazing education system and they take care of their people. Why are we last? Why are we not doing enough? I know you are out there doing the best you can.

I expect you to do your job as well as you expect me to give as much as I can. I will keep giving everything I can. I know the people of this State and the people of UNR would gladly give everything out of their pockets to make sure they are not losing their education. If we do not stop, we are heading down to a place where there is no return. The fall of society will be the fall of our education.

CRYSTAL JACKSON:

I am a secondary education major and a special education major with a minor in English. I am a tutor at Sparks High School. I push low-income students to further their education, pursue their degrees and achieve their dreams. Some of you are here looking at your phones and your computers. You are text messaging and laughing. You find it humorous, but I do not. I find it extremely disappointing that you do not see these students as your future. Some of you are aging and you are not going to be in these positions forever. Some of the decisions you make today are going to continue to affect this State forever.

I am here and I am going to school, but I may not be able to achieve my degree. I may have to go somewhere else and your decisions are going to have repercussions. Please stop looking at your phones. Stop looking like you are bored because we are the future. Soon, we are going to be in charge of taking care of you when you are done taking care of us.

DAVID JONES (Senator, Truckee Meadows Community College):

I am here representing my constituents, my colleagues and my friends. I am here to affirm what everyone here who has spoken today has already said.

ASHLEY LEVIN:

Last night, I did the math and realized, with the proposed budget cuts and tuition increases, that I may not be able to afford a place to live next semester. I was really upset. This morning, I went to dance class and danced my heart out. It made me feel amazing. Despite everything that is going on, I get to do

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 47

something that makes me feel good about myself. I realized that if we fail to keep the education for the children of Nevada, we will not have a Nevada. Please do the right thing.

DAVID D. HADEL:

I have lived in Reno for 25 years and I am 25 years old. My friend and I started a local non-profit podcast about a month ago. It is called All Reno Radio. It is free because that is what I am focused on. I started this pod cast because I was laid off. I worked at a locally owned and operated direct mail company for almost four years. I was laid off because of the economy and because we are not spending any money. I have been collecting unemployment from the taxpayers. I paid into unemployment as a resident for 25 years.

I have not been in Lawlor Events Center since 1992. All Reno Radio interviews bands and musicians. It is all about culture. Reno does not have any culture. We have some, but it is focused on gambling. Who wants to move to a 24-hour town for gambling?

Everyone, please help your community. Donate your time and your energy. I am moving to Portland. I have lived here all my life. But, Portland has a system that works. We need to look at it as an example.

DAVID STENTIFORD:

I graduated UNR with a master's degree in English. I was a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. Please take a moment and think of an educator who has changed your life. Turn to someone next to you and state that name. My point is that education is life changing.

CHAIR HORSFORD:

That was a great way to end our meeting. We also received written testimony from Laura Davidson ([Exhibit T](#)), Bret Davis ([Exhibit U](#)), Kim Idol ([Exhibit V](#)), Jocelyn Kleinhans ([Exhibit W](#)), Tiffany Kleinhans ([Exhibit X](#)), Julie Pearlman ([Exhibit Y](#)), Kaleb Wartgow ([Exhibit Z](#)), Dana Weiser ([Exhibit AA](#)), Mary White Stewart ([Exhibit BB](#)), June Wisniewski ([Exhibit CC](#)), Anonymous ([Exhibit DD](#)) and Anonymous I ([Exhibit EE](#)).

Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means  
March 31, 2011  
Page 48

We have made an effort to hear from constituents all over our State. There are difficult decisions to make. As we listen to the people we represent, we will hopefully do the right thing in the end. With no more business before this Subcommittee, this meeting is adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Marian Williams,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Steven A. Horsford, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



| <b><u>EXHIBITS</u></b> |                |                         |                    |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Bill</b>            | <b>Exhibit</b> | <b>Witness / Agency</b> | <b>Description</b> |
|                        | A              |                         | Agenda             |
|                        | B              |                         | Attendance Roster  |
|                        | C              | Charlie Jose            | Testimony          |
|                        | D              | Matthew Smith           | Testimony          |
|                        | E              | Casey Stiteler          | Testimony          |
|                        | F              | Trevor Macaluso         | Testimony          |
|                        | G              | Eric Thornley           | Testimony          |
|                        | H              | Hettie Ploeger          | Testimony          |
|                        | I              | Julia Carmichael        | Testimony          |
|                        | J              | Timothy Casentini       | Testimony          |
|                        | K              | Jonathan Price          | Testimony          |
|                        | L              | Jonathan Price          | Earthquake Guide   |
|                        | M              | Richard Stewart         | Testimony          |
|                        | N              | Maria René Castedo      | Testimony          |
|                        | O              | Daryl Drake             | Prepared Remarks   |
|                        | P              | Karen Faehling          | Testimony          |
|                        | Q              | Mary Hylton             | Testimony          |
|                        | R              | Sarah Rodriguez         | Testimony          |
|                        | S              | Donald Mahoney          | Testimony          |
|                        | T              | Laura Davidson          | Written Testimony  |
|                        | U              | Bret Davis              | Written Testimony  |
|                        | V              | Kim Idol                | Written Testimony  |
|                        | W              | Jocelyn Kleinhans       | Written Testimony  |
|                        | X              | Tiffany Kleinhans       | Written Testimony  |
|                        | Y              | Julie Pearlman          | Written Testimony  |
|                        | Z              | Kaleb Wartgow           | Written Testimony  |
|                        | AA             | Dana Weiser             | Written Testimony  |
|                        | BB             | Mary White Stewart      | Written Testimony  |
|                        | CC             | June Wisniewski         | Written Testimony  |
|                        | DD             | Anonymous               | Written Testimony  |
|                        | EE             | Anonymous I             | Written Testimony  |