



## CSN INITIATIVES & PRIORITIES

The College of Southern Nevada is committed to creating opportunities and enriching lives with inclusive learning and working environments that support diversity and student success. The priorities and initiatives listed below provide insight into a few of our key efforts at the local, state and federal levels. These efforts are focused not just on current projects and programs, but on preparation for the future as well, such as the effects of the PROSPER Act. Whether it's our work with local K-12 partners and community agencies, regional business and industry or national associations such as AACCC and ACCT, we strive to foster collaborative relationships that energize our efforts to engage with policy makers.

### FEDERAL

**DREAM Act** – We have worked diligently to provide access to education for all. Progress made to establish a path to citizenship for undocumented students would allow our current and prospective DACA students an opportunity to access the resources necessary to meet their academic goals.

**PROSPER Act** – The PROSPER Act represents several initiatives that prove beneficial to the College of Southern Nevada. The incentives under the Pell Grant for students to enroll in 15 credits or more, improvements in the FAFSA application process, and the expansion of Title IV eligibility to short-term programs that typically involve specific workforce-driven certificate programs all support the efforts being made at the College of Southern Nevada.

There are also areas of concern for the College of Southern Nevada. The proposed elimination and budget cuts relating to subsidized loans, the SEOG program, and the TRIO programs would have damaging effects on our students and their ability to access education, as well as our system-wide goal of closing the achievement gap among underserved populations.

We look forward to addressing these concerns in coordination with our system and the Nevada Congressional delegation and work toward solutions that improve education for all of our students.



## **STATE & LOCAL**

**CSN Prison Education Program** – The College of Southern Nevada, in partnership with the Nevada Department of Corrections, Hope for Prisoners and SNLTT Laborers Local 872, successfully completed year one of the Southern Nevada Prison Higher Education Program. Thanks to the bipartisan support of Nevada Senate Bill 306, 50 men and women who were incarcerated at High Desert State Prison or Florence McClure Women’s Prison completed their first college courses, earning them college credits and industry-recognized credentials of value. These men and women were honored for their completion of these courses during CSN ceremonies held in May and June.

CSN and the NDOC are gearing up to continue this pilot program for another cohort of 50 inmates who will begin their higher education journey this August. Upon completion of the program and release from prison, the students are assisted in finding employment as well as continuing their higher education at CSN. To date, four program participants have since been released from prison and all four have plugged into re-integration programming at Hope for Prisoners and are in contact with CSN to continue in their higher education journey.

**Nevada Promise** – The Nevada Promise Scholarship Program successfully engaged thousands of students and provided valuable information to applicants, parents, mentors and the community about college, including admissions and financial aid. Seven hundred and eight students have completed all eligibility requirements to date and are in the process of enrolling in 12 credits or more each, and completing the financial aid process.

CSN will welcome the 2018 Promise Cohort in August at special kickoff events and will recognize the close to 500 mentors who participated in this cycle’s 64 mentoring sessions. The CSN office is preparing to launch the recruitment of the Senior Class of 2019 for the next cycle. The NSHE application will be live August 1.

**Allied Health & Nursing Overview** – The College of Southern Nevada Engelstad School of Health Sciences is one of the leading educational providers for Nevada’s healthcare workforce. We offer a wide variety of degrees and certificates. CSN has affiliations with more than 350 local businesses and organizations where our students can apply their skills in hospitals, schools, private clinics and other work settings. Those relationships help potential employers get to know our students, and many of our graduates quickly find jobs in the industry.

Our graduates enter the workforce prepared to address the healthcare staffing shortages in southern Nevada. Legislation that will provide resources to nursing and allied health programs at two-year institutions would support our efforts and help us meet the healthcare needs of our community.

**Workforce Development** – The College of Southern Nevada established a Division of Workforce & Economic Development in 2005. The Division is an entrepreneurial and self-supporting arm of CSN that works with the region’s business and key industry sectors in the assessment, design, and implementation of customized curricula and training programs. Access to federal funding dedicated to supporting and expanding innovative community college and industry partnerships will strengthen our workforce division and allow us to provide academic programming that meets the needs of our developing economy.