Capitol Club-Nevada Student Coalition:

Letters to the Legislature

Crystal Charles - NSC

Getting my education is important to me because I want to not only set an example for my son, but to also be able to provide for him financially. Obtaining a nursing degree from Nevada State will give me the skills and experience to be competitive in the nursing field.

Joe Duran - CSN

My story isn't that different from a lot of people out there. I used to be in the construction field moving to be pretty high up and respected in my trade. Much like a lot of people when the economy collapsed so did my trade. So from Phoenix I moved back to New Mexico.
Moving in back home with my parents in Albuquerque, NM, I got a job similar to what I was doing, but as the economy still on the decline in 2009 there was still little work for granite installer. The ladder down to underemployed is rough. Like so many out there we do what we can. The construction project that I was involved in was coming to a close prematurely. It was time to take start making changes.
During the last half of 2009 I found the woman what I was going to marry, but she lived her in Las Vegas. It made sense, and with hardships that would be endured financially it was a gamble with a big payout. Finally getting a job at one of the casinos, the further strains of underemployment are leaving their mark. Having wanting to go back to school for some time 2010 was the year to get my life back on track.
From working two jobs and obscene hours, to going to school full-time in pursuit of degree my life has changed for the better. The financial strains are ever present. Ever more so on a man in his late 20's starting a family than someone just coming out of college. Regardless of the fact my earning potential will be boosted after I gradate. It's now, that trying to get by is a catalyst in any one making it or breaking it from their educational dreams.
The price of life is going up. From housing, food, gas, electric, and the scope of all day to day expenses. Wages are staying the same and worse, especially in this town employment is hard to come by. The need for affordable education is ever more present now more than ever. Any avenue that can be walked down to make it easier for people to go out and obtain a college education needs to be walked; whether it is grants or incentives on businesses to have tuition reimbursement. Real economic stimulation is in education. Education is an investment that does pay off.

Marichris Salonga - NSC

It is a struggle trying to juggle between work and school. With the help of financial aid, I was able to get on my feet and start a new path in life. I wanted to graduate college and I have the chance to do so. I will be one of the first people in my family to graduate. It would mean so much to my parents, especially since they could not afford to. I will show everyone who did not believe I can make it this far to achieve my dreams.

Corinne Trenholm - NSC

As a state employee, recent budget cuts have affected my pay and benefits. With my husband out of a job and our recent addition to the family, paying for classes and books has not been easy. Although financially I can't afford to take more classes, I decided to continue my education, post-graduate, in order to make myself more competitive in today's market and to secure a career for my family's future. My husband and I

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understand that the sacrifices we make today will be worth it in the long run. Nevada State College is helping to guarantee a financially stable and enjoyable future for my family.

Kimberly Ewell – CSN

After being a stay at home mom for nearly 17 years I was faced with going back into the work place, after my divorce. During my first semester at CSN I enrolled in 18 credits and proudly received all "A" grades. Due to my need for healthcare coverage and a fluctuating income, I took on a part time job, for which I am thankful. However, I need to make a better living to provide for myself and my three children. I also want to be able to pay for their college educations, and afford a home again.

Attending College of Southern Nevada has made a huge impact on my life already. I have experience a drastic improvement in my self esteem, discovering that I am smart and a good student. During this process we are trying to identify a diagnosis for my daughter who is suffering from tics which are torturing her during every waking moment. Most of the doctors we have visited have never seen anything like this. Her pediatric neurologist is suspecting PANDAS syndrome – a condition which is triggered by exposure to Strep A infection. However, we still do not have a diagnosis and are praying for her recovery.

During the month of October 2010 I was grieving the passing of my step-father, the father of my sister-in-law who was a dear friend, and a little girl who was in my ward at the LDS Church. It was a devastating period for me. I had to travel to Canada to be with my mother for the funeral and burial of her husband, and in doing so I fell behind in my studies, ultimately forcing me to withdraw from two of my required classes. I felt angry with myself for not being able to keep up. However, I finally had to accept that I am not Super Woman. I have three children who need me, a grieving mother, and a house going into foreclosure due to the divorce. I withdrew from the classes. But good news…I expect to receive A's in the two classes I retained. Thankfully, I have had professors who have inspired and encouraged me through all of my classes. During the summer of 2010 I took Biology 189 and felt myself grow leaps and bounds, beyond capacity I had never imagined. My professor, Dr. Deborah Harbor instilled a confidence in me that could only come from a professor. She believed in me. There are several others who buoyed me up as well. Biology 189 seems to take on my symbolic educational journey at CSN so far. I probably grew the most in that class.

The field of nursing offers employment opportunities and pays well. So, this is my educational goal at CSN. It is taking longer than I would like, but I am doing it. I look forward to the day when I graduate and I can go on to a better paying job and apply my knowledge and interest along with my heart in the field of health sciences.

Colton Wolfe - CSN

After losing my mother to breast cancer before I started the eighth grade, I was left with a huge hole inside me. Going to school has helped fill that hole. If CSN's tuition keeps rising I won't be able to fill that hole inside me anymore.

Jason Corbin - CSN

The last few years have hit my family especially hard. A lack of insurance combined with the cost of a miscarriage and a successful birth ate up our savings. We had been trying for two years to get a modification on our home. We finally won that battle, but by the time the modification was approved, we had racked up a large amount of credit card debt (living expenses…not luxury items). So, we will have to foreclose anyway.

The only option we, as a family, have is higher education. Through grants, I have been able to take the steps necessary to earn a college degree. My intention is to complete the RN program so that I can contribute to

my family's financial security. In turn, I will be contributing to Nevada's economy as a more productive consumer and citizen.

Nevada, especially Las Vegas, must diversify its economy. It has become necessary to produce more than housekeepers, dealers, and valets. It is time for Nevada to educate its denizens to be more than minimum wage earners and tip collectors.

A recent study of 180 cities put the Las Vegas economy fourth from the last. We are on a long list of lasts. Education is the only way to correct our problems.

Roland Arii - NSC

I moved to Henderson, Nevada in the summer of 2009. I used to live on a tiny, 13 square mile island in the middle of the Pacific, called Saipan. I left after my junior year of high school. Senior year in the United States, after being educated on my tiny rock in the middle of nowhere, seemed intimidating. "Oh, they've got to have more challenging classes! I bet their regular classes were like my AP classes back home!" I was pretty wrong, with "pretty" being an understatement. I took a few Honors courses which seemed like busywork. The regular courses were pretty easy as well. Hell, I even had to make up an extra semester of government just to graduate early (which I could, which was awesome), and all I did was take a test (From Adult Ed), pay 60 bucks, and I got an extra half year of government. Sweet deal, if you ask me. My mom always told her friends about how I graduated early, and I took some test that gave me an extra credit, and I got high grades in Honors courses, etc. etc. My mom just likes to talk about how smart her son is.

But the reality is I'm not all that smart. A lot of this stuff should be the norm. It's how I grew up, and it should be how kids in the state of Nevada grew up.

Chase DiMarco - NSC

Education, to me, is one of the few worthwhile tasks left to our society. It can be ceaselessly increasing. It can never be unlawfully stolen or lawfully confiscated. In a society where knowledge of popular culture is deemed a worthy pastime it is important to allow for true knowledge and wisdom to be attained in some certified manner. Education is one of the few things that really define a person. Through the years I have experienced a handful of college campuses and several degree paths, however, none have been quite as pleasant as my stay at NSC. I have fought financial aid, schedule conflicts, principles and provosts to continue my education through Nevada State, and hope to continue on my path as long as is deemed necessary. I could write a 10 page report on how important education is to me and why I believe NSC is a great organization to do this through, but I already have a few of those due this week. So I will leave with the fact that at NSC I don't feel like a number as in other educational institutes. The teachers treat you as a person and understand that life has constraints, and it doesn't hurt that the student government and other student workers actually work to make things better for the students.

Danielle Graciolett - NSC

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the budget cuts at Nevada State College, and my fight against this taking place. I am currently a student at NSC after several searches for a college that fits my needs. I completed a degree at UNLV and later attended CSN. After a long search, I discovered NSC and its wonderful staff who generally have concern about our needs and problems that does not take places at larger colleges such as UNLV and CSN.

With a budget cut, it would limit the staff and the number of classes available to complete my nursing degree from NSC. This would be an issue for me and many students that have felt and stated that NSC is like a family. It is very small and tight knit. Many people are friendly, and join in close friendships with

each other due to the small number of students. This would not take places at larger colleges. With the budget cut, classes that join students and have brought students here to complete their degrees would no longer exist. Taking both of these joys away from NSC students is a huge concern. Instead, please help our school succeed in bringing in a better budget and joining more students with our wonderful school and staff.

Sincerely,
Nevada State College Student,
Danielle Graciolett

Julie Foster - NSC

When the recession hit, my husband, who had already lived through the earlier one of '89-'90 told me a simple truth: educate yourself for the future workforce—not the present one. This is a simple economic reality, and one that led to the prosperity of the 1990s. Therefore, to cut education in a time of crushing unemployment is like getting rid of lifeboats on a sinking ship in the hope that the lighter weight will allow the ship to sink more slowly giving yourself a little extra time.

I have a BA in English and had a fulfilling career in the nonprofit sector back in Chicago. I left full-time employment to care for my children. Now that my youngest is to start school soon, my thoughts had turned to possible career opportunities in the near future. My husband encouraged me to look into pursuing a second career since this would be a perfect time to return to school. In a way, I feel as if I have come full circle. Although I never formally joined the medical profession, I have had several part-time jobs related to caretaking/nursing back in high school and during college the first time around. I basically stayed within my comfort zone in the liberal arts and never veered into the sciences. I have come to the realization that nursing really is my calling and I am confident that I made the perfect career decision for the "second phase" of my life. I've always enjoyed working with people and wanted to make sure I chose a profession that would allow me to utilize my patience and compassion to give back to the community and help people lead happy and healthy lives.

I researched all of my options and was so happy to have found NSC. I wanted to avoid the large campus experience and was basically looking for a reputable school with affordable tuition that would provide a great education. I admit I was a little worried when I found out about NSC's funding issues, but I wanted to take the chance and put my faith into the school. I am only in my second semester but I have been so impressed with the amazing faculty (the professors truly care about their students) as well as the very organized and ever so helpful administrative staff. I also love the fact that there is no "typical" student at NSC. There are students of all ages and backgrounds which makes it very comfortable and easy to fit right in. Like most of my fellow students, I do some juggling to make this all work. For me, it's being a mother, having a part-time job, and going to school full-time. I actually never thought I'd ever return to school for a completely different path, but how wonderful it is that the opportunity is there for the taking. This is a very important step for me and especially for my family. I am very excited to have this chance to enter a new profession — a profession that I can be proud of. It is also a plus to know that I will be working alongside peers who chose a profession for the same reason of wanting to help others.

So, I am now working diligently to finish all my prerequisites with hopes to enter the nursing program here at NSC. As I drive the 45 minutes it takes each way to get to school, I think to myself, it is WELL worth it! My husband and I are trying to make a life for our family here in Nevada. We want to be proud to live in this state.

Lyzsandra Benitez - NSC

We should invest a lot more money into education to encourage students to pursue degrees in higher education. If we don't invest in our education systems now we will not be able to recover from the recession we are currently in. The cycle is going to just keep going on. This country needs educated leaders

to keep this country going in the right direction but it will not be possible if others don't help invest in education.
Budget cuts are already limiting schools in what they can and can't spend money on. Some of our most important student assistance programs are going to be cut and it's going to hurt most students; especially those who take advantage of these resources to help them with a class work.
The government decides to spend money on investing in other things such as casino advertisement to attract tourist but won't make investing in education a priority?
Budget cuts already affected many programs last year when after school curricular activities like basketball and soccer were cut. These activities helped many teens stay away from trouble in past years. It's no wonder our crime rate has raised in such little time.

Nelly Ayala - NSC

Education has always been a big part of my life. I think education is the key factor to success. My parents have always influenced me to be someone bigger in life. For all these reasons I have set high goals for myself and am determined to educate myself to the fullest. I know that to attain my goal of the American Dream I can only get there with an education.

Kaisia Amaya - NSC

I chose to go to college not only because it will help me in the future but because I was raised to put school as my number two priority after family. I want to have an education because my parents did not go to college. I want a better future than they had. I want to be an occupational therapist so I can help rehabilitate people. School is the only way I can accomplish that goal. I chose NSC as my college because of their great OT program. Without an affordable college program I would miss out on a quality education. I love to learn and will not let anyone or anything get in my way.

Samira Dargahi - NSC

Education is very important to me because jobs these days require their employees to be educated. Having an education is something to be proud of. I picked NSC because the classes are small and there are more hands on experience. You learn more and the teachers greater focus on the students. I want to go into nursing and my field requires education past a high school degree. Education should be important to everyone.

Destiny Mckeever - NSC

I have been a student of Nevada State College since the Summer of 2010. Currently I am seeking my second career due to the fact that the art industry has suffered greatly during this recession. I have always been interested in pursuing medicine or a science field since I was a child. I'm also a humanitarian at heart, who wants to do something that would improve the human condition. After hours of research, I decided to try my hand at the medical industry. I first obtained my Phlebotomy license which was a huge turning point for me. After working with all the amazing people, co-workers and patients, I decided that I wanted to move further into the medical industry. I am currently attending both Nevada State College for pre-nursing and College of Southern Nevada for Surgical Technology. I hope to also attain my First Surgical Assistant degree and have decided on specializing in noninvasive/invasive Cardiology procedures. My ultimate goal is work for a Cardiologist with a private surgical practice. I am excited to be able to help others while beginning this new phase of my life.

I have struggled throughout the years to pay for living expenses and college. I come from a single parent household where my mother could not afford to help me with college. While attending college full-time I work two or more jobs to help pay for expenses. My expenses include living, tuition, and books.

I have relied in the past on student loans, but currently I cannot afford to take out any more. I discovered that the first college I attended is not accredited so I cannot transfer credits that I paid for. I also discovered that my undergraduate degree does not qualify for graduate programs or continuing education training because of accreditation issues. This has cost me dearly in continuing my education.

For years, I never thought I would continue college because of not only financial issues but the inability to transfer credits or degrees. But I never gave up and I believe in myself; so any hardship that may come my way will not deter me from my goals.

I believe the greatest impact a degree would have on my life, would be by giving my life more meaning by helping people. But even more importantly give me a sense of pride and accomplishment. To be able to say, "Yes, I did this all on my own and I'm proud of myself." I think accomplishment and self fulfillment are a basic want and need of all people. I would like to give myself those things in my life.

Having a degree would impact my overall life by giving me a sense of stability. Life is less stressful when you have a degree and are able to choose a career path you enjoy. I think a lot of personal unhappiness, for some people, comes from lacking a career they enjoy. I am lucky that I have found a career choice I truly enjoy.

I also believe that completing a degree at this point in my life is important for many reasons. For one, being able to finally continue and finish my education is a welcome relief. I've struggled for years to transfer my credits but soon I won't have to worry about it anymore. A new degree and career will also help me become more financially stable so I can afford more personal time for myself and my family. Because I have to work so much to pay for living and college expenses, my personal and family life has suffered over the years. I wish to free more time in the near future so I can spend it with my loved ones.

I believe the most important strengths I possess are patience, persistence, and diligence for accomplishing my goals. No matter how tough times have seemed, I keep looking to a much brighter future. I have always believed that there is a silver lining to every dark cloud. In my case, the silver lining has always been that I am doing something good for myself and my future.

I am excited by this new phase of my life and cannot wait for the opportunity to use my new skills to help others. I am confident I will reach my goals without veering off my current path. The new future I have is within my grasp and I will not let it go.
Sincerely,
Destiny Mckeever

Charlie England - NSC

I moved to Las Vegas from Detroit, Michigan in 2004 to make a new start in life. I was laid off from my job after being employed for ten years. I knew here there were opportunities to find work in Las Vegas. I did find a good job being a server but I know that is a just a job not a career. I have been in school since I moved to Las Vegas. I know seeking an education is the only way out of a dead end job. Nursing has always struck my interest as a great career for me. I have attended CSN but I have found that NSC is just as affordable and luckily I am able to pay out of pocket for tuition thanks to their financial aid department, at UNLV or CSN I would definitely have student loans already. I am able to get into the classes I need, unlike CSN. Please, no more budget cuts for Nevada State College.

James Ziegler - NSC

After a long career in Retail, I have chosen to pursue a Nursing career. I have wanted to pursue nursing for over 15 years but like many people finances and time are a factor. NSC allows me to attend evening classes, be in an environment with other older adults, and not have to fight the challenges found at College of Southern Nevada i.e. parking, crowds etc. I am attending my second class and have found teachers to be

truly interested in the success of their students. I could not have made a better choice. It is a fantastic educational option for older working adults. My hope is that the Legislature recognizes the value of Nevada State College.
Thank you,
Jim Ziegler

Theresa H Moore - NSC

I am a lifelong resident of Las Vegas, born and raised. At fifty years of age I decided to complete my dream of completing my college education. As I investigated my options of colleges and Universities, I quickly felt the panic set in. I was overwhelmed and intimidated with the thought of classrooms filled with possibly hundreds of students, a professor and me. When I read and heard about the smaller class enrollment at NSC, I knew this would be perfect for me. As I start my third session here at NSC my confidence has soared, primarily due to the intimate classroom environment and the caring one-on-one guidance I have received when needed from my professors. NSC has been an important stepping stone in my reinvention and new life. I know I have a bright future.

Tanya Bracken-Geller – University of Phoenix

It took me ten years to return to college to complete my goal of obtaining a college education. Now that I am one class away from achieving my goal I have discovered that no matter how hard the process is, what battles your life throws at you, or your family life is like; education is the necessary tool to help a family survive. Education is what makes this world grow and evolve. Knowing how to run a business, budget funds, and maintain customer appreciation are the basic tools a business management student, like me, learns. But to get to college to learn those tools, one must begin their educational process at a young age. Meaning, a college education is very important to focus on certain aspects of life, but to help temper that focus one must begin with a well rounded education. Education fuels evolution, to evolve one must be educated on the past attempts and adjust. Henceforth, why my goal of obtaining a college degree has been a long battle that I am proud to say I am on the down slope of winning.
Although education is a lifelong battle, government should not make the battle a struggle that encourages failure or surrender. As stated before, the country's future is very dependent on those who are educated. If we allow the uneducated or ill educated individuals run our country we will never evolve. Education is the most important thing any human being could receive. If the government chooses to involve themselves in the process in which one must follow to obtain an education, then they should realize that they will not live forever and that someone will need to replace them, and if that individual that replaces them is uneducated or ill educated well then it looks as though they are not doing their job well.
For me I have not had to struggle much to obtain my goal, but I have had some loops I had to jump through. Maybe those loops are the same as everyone else, but that doesn't mean that we need to strap down and take funding away from the country's future leaders, business owners, or inventors. Funding education now will help fund the future.

Millicent Frehner - NSC

At the age of 50 I found myself divorced and with no way to support myself. I had no hope for the future, and did not want to be a burden on my child for the rest of my life. I tried to find a job that I could get and make enough money to support myself. I found that because I did not have a degree that there was no way I could find a good job. I found that the only way I could become self sufficient was to go back to school and get a degree. When I started back to school I found the hope of a better future, and the promise of a better life. I will be graduating this December with a psychology degree, a job as a human resources director, a livable salary and the ability to pay back my student loans.

Marco Penaloza – Valley high school

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education". Mark twain thought that we should never let our environment affect our education. The environment in my school is very prideful in terms of school spirit. That may be one of the reasons why we, as a school, have been named a turnaround school. Other schools like Desert Pines have let their environment affect them as well but they lack the same degree of school pride and so that is why they might have low test scores.

Jennifer Noguez - NSC

Before I came to Nevada State College I was a student at College of Southern Nevada. I had finished all of my pre-requisites for my RN degree except for the required science classes. I tried for 2 semesters to get into the Biology 189 class I needed, but I was unsuccessful. I was pretty much ready to give up and look for another career, but then I heard of NSC. In the summer of 2010 I signed up to become a student and got into the Biology 189 class I needed within a few days of hearing about NSC. This college pretty much saved my educational career, as I was very close to just giving up. Yes, this college is about an hour drive for me to come to class, but it is the greatest school I have ever attended. The Professors are amazing and the students are all very nice. I don't know what I would be doing right now if I would have never heard of Nevada State College! Please don't cut funding to NSC!!

Karley Royal - NSC

I have always made it a priority in my life to gain as much knowledge as I can while I am here on this Earth. It is one of the few things available to me that, once obtained, can never be taken away. That's why I am trying to gain as much as I can from the opportunities presented at NSC. I started my college education at the beginning of my junior year in high school. I am currently enrolled in the STEP-UP program at Nevada State College so I can eventually teach elementary education. I chose this career because I love it and believe that more students deserve dedicated teachers. I am here to make a difference.

Alma Banks - NSC

My area of interest is pursuing a career in Nursing. What influenced me to think about a career in nursing is for personal, intellectual improvement so as my family, my children's future. Learning is a lifetime pursuit for me and education would help me become more successful and financially secure for my children's bright future. I am an adventurous type of person who is willing to take extra steps and even undergo any risk job if I have to in order to accomplish my goals. I have always wanted to be a nurse long years ago when I was in high school. However, due to financial situation I ended up taking a different course and earned a degree but not nursing. However, I always have faith and believe in myself that my goals will achieve. Nevada State College believes to be committed in providing support to the students in many ways such as providing access and affordability for education and financial support. There are variety of courses to choose from and offers scholarship and financial aid to those who are qualified. In fact, I am one of them who applied and granted a loan. It really helps especially for this economy. The faculty members, the professors, who share their passion in teaching and one on one-interaction enhances in the interpersonal support that students received from teachers and also from peers within the campus.

Nevada State College (NSC) embraces cultural diversity that considers being a source of strength and supports to those students who want to involve in different programs and events for multiculturalism on campus and throughout the community. I think through this, it would develop a sense of acceptance and making friends to share ideas and knowledge. I think it would also develop ones personality and performance scholastically.

For me, besides family values, education plays important role in my life. Nursing is a field that offers abundant job opportunities to suit a variety of interest and skills. It is a diverse and dynamic field where most professionals come from different educational background, ethnic and cultures who work together to provide health care services to the society. I chose the BSN program because it offers a broad range of great

opportunities. Job opportunity likewise, it gives me an advantage, better candidate than those who do not have a degree and do not have special skills and great training background. If I'll be succeeding someday, I will hold it as an honor and prestigious profession because I did not only spend time and money to achieve it, I work so hard to earn this profession. It does not only require knowledge and skills but as well as time and effort, dedication, commitment and responsibility. With dedication and determination, I am sure I will be a successful nurse someday. There might be challenges and obstacles along the way but I always believe that nothing is impossible. I will always continue to learn and experience as much of life as possible. That is my lifetime commitment.

Nikki Phillips-Cote - NSC

I decided to go back to school a year ago to complete my dream of becoming a nurse.
I looked into UNLV, CSN and NSC.
After making many inquiries I found out that Nevada State College was the best fit for me.

For one reason I was able to become a student, apply for financial aid and pick my classes in a very short period of time. When I called CSN and UNLV they both quoted me 2 months to get into classes.

Financial aide at NSC was very important to me, as a single woman raising 2 kids and 2 grandkids I was dependent on financial aid for returning to school. NSC was able to get it through and complete to cover my classes.

Also the class sizes were much more appealing. The class sizes are much smaller so you have more one on one time with the professors. Also the science classes I so badly needed to get into were available for new student. The other school had their sciences filled by the returning students and the new students had no chance.

I really hope even with all the budget cuts the decision makers realize there is a huge need for Nevada State College and that many of the mature returning students have found a home here for their studies.

Thank you and please make the right decision to keep Nevada State College alive!!

Stephanie Herrera - NSC

Greetings! I am a student at NSC, a writing tutor, and the assistant editor of the school newspaper, The Scorpion Tales. Initially, I came to NSC for several reasons. It was convenient in many ways such as it was close in regards to distance and it was not very costly. I did not want to go to a community college, like CSN, that only offered an associate's degree and I did not want to start off my college experience at a crowded expensive University, like UNLV, which was on the other side of town. So naturally a shining option was Nevada State College which piqued my interest because it was new and offered small classes and a bachelor's degree. Over time, I learned to love NSC because, quite frankly, it is a considerate and considerable college in every sense. It provides an alternative option for those who are looking for the best education experience. Since it is a small college, there is a sense of community here where students, staff and faculty all encourage each other on the continued journey of education. I am sure that many other students, such as me, have been able to create a positive identity for themselves and have developed many friendships at NSC to establish a comfortable learning environment that is unique. For all these reasons, it is important to be careful and limit budget cuts because students living in this state do not have much to choose from and are desperately hoping to advance as professionals. So, take it easy on us!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Herrera

Saira Mendez - NSC

My story is probably like that of most students attending NSC. Since haven't we all had to face hardships at one point in our lives? And they still keep on coming even when what we have been wanting has been gained. I've had my share of struggles in high school, but who hasn't? I've done what I've been able to do, but I know that it isn't enough. If I truly give it my all I can achieve all my present and future goals. I can do so much more to get what I want from life. NSC was not my first choice, but it was the smart choice. I was given a chance at a full ride scholarship to my first choice of college. But due to some certain circumstances, in my life, I was unable to take what was given. Do I regret such a choice? I do, but I would choose it again and again. Right now at NSC I'm trying to give it my all, but I know I can still give more and I'm working on that. NSC is giving me a lot of opportunities that I did not know I could be given. Thank you NSC!

Kimberly Johnson - NSC

Being able to get a college degree will help my life tremendously because I will be able to get into my dream career of nursing, where I can actually help people and see them feel better, knowing that I helped them achieve that. NSC is a great school that helps me achieve my bachelor's degree without putting me in debt and it would be a great shame, if I ,and most of the students at NSC, lost this school.

Ashley Brown - NSC

I am going to school to be a nurse. If the higher education budget is cut in any capacity it will drastically increase the amount of time it takes me to graduate and get started in my career.

I've recently discovered the exact type of nurse I want to be, an oncology nurse, while experiencing the death of my grandfather to lung cancer. I kept thinking about how all of the nurses were nice and caring as my grandpa was reaching his final hours. I want to be THAT nurse, the one that will be remembered because of how much others felt they were being cared about and for. I want it with every patient, every time. I can't be THAT nurse unless I have THE BEST quality education to back me up.

Please find it in your hearts to leave the higher education budget alone. What if it was a family member, close friend or you who were sick? Knowing that you have it in your hands to help those who want to make a difference in the world and you're not going to do anything about it? Honestly, PLEASE find it in your hearts to do the right thing. Please.

James Ziegler - NSC

At 45 yrs old, I am no long able to advance at my present job due to the economy and other reasons. I have always wanted to become a nurse and have decided to take the first step by attending NSC. More cohesive than College of Southern Nevada!! I cannot say enough about Nevada State College. I drive 35 miles each way to attend class after working a full day-40 hours a week. Well worth the effort.

Thank you,
Jim Ziegler

Julia Hopkins - NSC

As many students would agree we all have lots of ambition and determination that is ready to open up new bright ideas for the world. We professors are absolutely amazing, we love the individualized home feeling, and we are have so much support around us that we are pushed even harder to succeed. This school makes me feel like I am important that I am more than just another student. I hope to graduate soon and it would be a burden to find out that many of the programs will be shutting down for the future students. This school has grown so much since it has opened and by taking away programs students might be forced to go somewhere else. Give this school another chance at showing off its great students and wonderful staff.

Jasmin Mulready - NSC

My story is simple I'm the first person in my house hold to make it this far in school. I live in a small three bedroom apartment with a total of six of us (sometimes more depending on the circumstance) so that a big deal to us. I'm full time student on grant money and if it weren't for the grant I wouldn't be able to afford to go to school. I hope that my school gets more funding because it's a very important part of my, not just because I'm getting an education that would greatly improve the lives of my family ,but also because if I weren't for my school I wouldn't be able to have insurance. My school is giving me health, an education, resources I would have never had before, and a chance at a brighter future. Someday I hope to honor my school by making something of myself so I can give back to it. I hope my school and schools like it can get more funding to keep helping kids like me so that someday we to can return the favor.

Yinyee Liu - NSC

I'm a mature student in my 30's studying pre nursing in the hopes of graduating with a BSN. I've been saving for a year in order to achieve my dream of college. Please no more budget cuts!

Ashley Elliott - NSC

Education is the single most important thing in my life.

Joshua Sarabia - NSC

In my family education is important. Most of my family are illegal and struggle with finding jobs and going to school. For me, I have a social security and am taking advantage of the education that is given to me. I came to Nevada State College to major in nursing. I did not go to UNLV or CSN because their nursing programs are not as good as Nevada State's nursing program. I love this school because classes are small, the professors help you, and if you need help we have free tutors to help us out. I have told many students about our school, how organized, small, and awesome it is and why they should apply here.

Valencia Kline - NSC

This is my first semester at Nevada State College. I chose to go to NSC because I felt they were my best chance at a good education.

If the school's budget gets cut any more it's not just going to have an effect on the school; it's going to have an effect on me and my education as well. My education is what's going to help me succeed in life. Please consider this letter before making budget cuts that aren't going to help me receive the education I deserve to get.

Elenore Nobleza - NSC

I work full time, and a full time mother of four children and even though it's very hard to budget my time still I'm not giving up my education. I want to become a nurse someday and even it took me for many years I will not give up, because this is for my four children so that I can put them all to school later on. Getting an education is very important because this the only wealth that no one can still it from you and you can carry this until the rest of your life.

Breanna Fahndrich - NSC

My NSC story starts when I first came to NSC this past semester (fall2010) and what a defiance it's made in my academic performance. I had been attending CSN for the past 3 years but was having issues with their science department being more concerned with their dropout rate then wanting to help students succeed. I had heard great things about Nevada State College and decided to take a class there and see if the

rumors were true. I'm currently taking Bio 223 and am learning so much, my teacher is amazing and makes learning fun. She doesn't put you down for asking a dumb question, she just explains the material in another manner so we can all understand it. That's what I look for in a great education system. I want my teachers to be excited to learn as much as I am. My time here at Nevada State College may be short but I can honestly say if I wouldn't have attended this semester here I might not have gotten a passing grade at CSN. I will be differently attending Nevada State College next semester.

LaQuan Phillips - NSC

I got paralyzed in 2008 playing football at Green Valley high school. I wanted to continue going to school but didn't want to out of state or to a junior college. UNLV was too big of a campus for me to go to so I found out about Nevada State College. A four year college with the major I wanted, and was the perfect size for me to get around with no hassle. Nevada State provided the perfect environment for me; a small convenient campus with lots of accessibility for me to be able to handle the load of school. Nevada State also provided ways for me to take midterms and get notes hassle free which has been an extreme help. Through Nevada State I've grown not just as student but as a person.

Cimmarah Lamberz - NSC

I have resided in Las Vegas for many years now and even from a very early age I could recognize a lack of importance thrown into Nevada's educational system. Teachers here lack the ability to go one on one with their students; whether it's because classrooms are jam packed or they just don't care. A lot of them really don't care. They'll never lecture and just sit back assigning kids tedious worksheets for grades. A lot of kids drop out this way, just look at the statistics. Those who do move on to college here have a hard time getting the funds for it and are retaking classes they basically took in high school just to get to the level other American kids are on. Nevada once flourished because of tourism, with a bad economy this will no longer be sufficient to be able to live. Give us the money for public education and college educations. This gives us better teachers and opportunity. Get us back on our feet; it is impossible to make it without schooling.

Zack Peters - NSC

Where would our country be without higher education? You yourself as legislatures would not be in the position you are without attaining a degree from a higher education institution; many of you from places other than UNR, UNLV, CSN, and least probably NSC. You have gone to other states to obtain your education before returning, or moving to, Nevada. We are fortunate for your return, when most people are stay away from the state once they leave. I am studying English and Secondary Education, and I want nothing more than to stay in Las Vegas. I want to help students in Middle or High school at achieve goals they don't realize are possible.

As my governing body it is important for you to know that you have done nothing to show me that my career is of value to you and the state. When I graduate I will be forced to consider my options, and more than likely forced to say, "I'm taking my talents elsewhere."Talents this state would be fortunate to have. My list of credentials runs long for a 20 year old. Teaching English abroad as a student ambassador, High School AP scholar, DECA Nationals Finalist in stock market investing, English Honors Society, church volunteer, student employee who tutors those in public housing (students who where once below grade level are now at grade level after just a few hours a week of after school help), etc. You might be able to trick others into staying here with false promises and no plans for economic growth, but I will not fall victim to your game. This is a great state that has plentiful resources in fields that would improve the state's economy. We would be a great place for bio-research, non-gaming corporate growth, and sociological research. These are all fields that require an educated populous, something I'm not confident we have. I have voted every chance I've had since turning 18.

Whether or not I voted for you, you have the responsibility to act on the voice of the people. If you have an overwhelming response from citizens to leave education alone you are REQUIRED to act on that demand. You are in office to enforce the will of the people. If you are not doing so, you should, and at some point will, be removed from office. I gave up going to Johnson and Whales in Rhode Island, to stay her to become a teacher. I love this city. Not enough to suffer as an educator. I, and others like myself, will leave. Nine out of ten Nevadans say they would support tax increases to improve education. Please don't leave me with this ultimatum. Support education on all levels. Don't forget. You got an education. The rest of us deserve the same.

Gina Bermejo - NSC

My life without an education would be dreadful. I have been given this grand opportunity to succeed and make a difference in other people's lives. As a child I grew up in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Los Angeles. I faced many challenges and from a statistical point I was expected to fail. My education has not only helped me with my career bit it has enhanced me as a person.

Marion Maniago - NSC

I've been an NSC student for about three and a half years now & I've gotten to experience a lot of great things here. The teachers perform an excellent job teaching. I am a nursing major & I start working as a nurse this coming spring. I'd like everyone to know I've felt so blessed being a part of this school. It was amazing seeing it grow into something bigger and even better. I would be devastating to future students that are seeking an education if it was shut down or reduced in size because of budget cuts in Nevada. I'd like to see Nevada education grow in order for us to have a prosperous and stable future.

Stefany Venticinque - NSC

During my first semester of college at NSC has been a very good experience. My teachers have been very helpful. The reason I chose NSC over UNLV & UNR is because it had smaller class sized, low tuition prices, and gives more one on one time with professors. I also chose NSC because of their nursing program; which in my opinion is better than UNLV's. They are definitely more hands on than other nursing programs. These are the reasons I have chosen NSC.

Bri Mercadante - NSC

Growing up I was encouraged to go to college, get an education and have a steady career. In May of 2009 I was skate boarding in a local church parking lot. The last thing I remember was saying goodbye to my father. Five days later, I woke up next to my boyfriend in a hospital bed. I had fallen and slammed my head on the pavement. After months of having to relearn to walk, speak & remember 16 years of memories, I discovered what was most important to me; becoming a psychologist and helping others. That is why I go to Nevada State College. Without my ability to get this education at this specific school I would, with its low tuition costs, I would not be able to afford an education. I would suffer too much financially to get the proper education at any other college. I would have to give up on my dreams. My family and education are my top priorities. By losing the chance to attend NSC I would also lose the pride my family takes in me and my future.

Karen Garcia Hernandez - NSC

I care about my education and the education for other students that want to pursue their dreams in any way that is smart and less painful. I am in a program that is paying for all my entire education tuition and without it I could not be here. I put a lot of effort, time, and money into coming to school every single day. Sometimes it seems that it's not worth it but later you regret it if you don't continue because you see others

getting paid more for just continuing in school and absorbing more knowledge than what they really need to know. I want to be in that place where I can get more pay with less stress.

Andrea Fuentes - NSC

My entire life I always aspired to be something above the bar. I am a history major with a concentration in pre-law and NSC is helping me get there because of its attentive professors, small classes and spectacular student government. This school does not get the recognition is should. I know one day I will look back and be proud of the school I went to and appreciate how much NSC did for me. This school will grow to its fullest potential and will be bigger than UNLV or CSN.

Taylor Murray - NSC

I am furthering my education to climb out of the lower class that I was born into, to avoid the financial hardship placed upon me as a child, and to have security for myself and my future family. The whole basis of government aid to colleges and universities is the hope that by encouraging and funding education for students that tax revenue will increase. They increase because salaries increase when you have an education. So, why on earth would you take money from a program that will generate more tax dollars in the long run? After all, would you rather take your 40% ridiculous income tax from an attorney making $80,000-$100,000 or a janitor making barely $30,000???

Thomas Page - NSC

I got my two year degree from CSN and now I'm attending NSC to get my bachelors degree to become an elementary school teacher. My brother and I go to this school because of the location, the size, and it is less expensive than UNLV.

I chose the path to become an elementary school teacher because of the wonderful teachers that I have had in the past. If it wasn't for them giving me extra help after school each day I wouldn't be where I am today. I want to help students to learn and if they need extra help I will be the teacher that always says, "will help you."

If NSC wasn't here today I would probably be living in California and getting my degree there. Please protect Nevada State College's funding.

Thank you for reading this.

Brooke Hoffman - NSC

Education is really important to me because it allows me to have a better life than I grew up with. My mother and father didn't go to college and my sister dropped out. Because Nevada State College is here it allows me to fulfill my dreams of higher education!

Chase Jennette - NSC

I came to Nevada State College from CSN two years ago and it has been the best experience of my life. NSC is a crucial and necessary part of the valley's higher education system and must be preserved and treated with the respect. Education is the key to ending the recession. We must make it our first priority to save it, grow it, and distribute funds accordingly; for our sake and our children's. Please stop needless spending on unnecessary construction projects and give education the money it deserves!

Brenda Delgado - NSC

Education is important to me not only because it is a form of improving my future, but because it was always my parents dream for one of their children to attend and graduate from a college/university. Many believe that the "American Dream" is only about the material goods that one may acquire while following that dream, but for my parents their "American Dream" was about being able to provide their children with the education that they never had. This is why I pride myself with the ability of being able to go to school; it's not only for me but for them.

Saeed Qadir - NSC

After high school I was confused about whether or not I wanted to go to college. My sister convinced me to try NSC. After attending a few classes I realized college was the right way to go. NSC is a really fun school with small classes and helpful instructors. This school means a lot to me and I would like others to have the chance to experience it.

Daniel Riccardi - NSC

I love Nevada State college because while it is an affordable school it also offers so much more. With its small classes making the learning experience much easier and the small building makes for a rich learning environment that can be traversed easily. Right now this college is the only way to attain my future goal to be a game designer for one of the major companies. Without this education I would probably end up working for my dad's company and not go anywhere in life. I would eventually need to get another job or two because the pay I make from work now is nowhere near enough to sustain a living.

I would end up going through life as a sad slave to society, working non-stop never getting anywhere in the world. With a proper education I would be able to have a better chance in the world. I could get a job that doesn't make me wish I were somewhere else and that I would truly enjoy. I mean right now college is all I have going for me, there is nothing out there waiting for me and there isn't some easy path I can take to make a living in the world. Nevada State College is one of the few things I can actually appreciate in life besides my family and friends and in the end my education is the only thing that will get me going in life.

Mikaela Marquez - NSC

Hey, my story about going to college & getting an education is pretty important and everyone should get a chance to learn! My reason is to better myself in life. I don't want to have to work all the time so my children don't ever see me. I want my children to have everything they could possibly want. I got a lot as a child but now that I am on my own I can't run to daddy and ask him to buy me a degree. I know that if I get a teaching degree I will be set for life. So, school is important because I actually am working my hardest to learn and better my life as well as the future for other children as well as my own. Thank you for hearing my story.

Ron Stanfield - NSC

When I graduated from high school I did not think I would make it in college if I went but I knew I had to go to college to survive this world. I applied at UNLV, but they wouldn't accept me due to my SAT scores. Then I tried CSN, of course they accepted me, but I was told they would not give me the extra help if I needed it. Then I went to NSC and found that they would. From that day on I've been attending Nevada State College. I've been there for 2 years and am enjoying it. The reason why is because they provide extra help for us students and they try to make the students understand the work they give out step by step. I love NSC, and I would be in much worse off if it wasn't for them.

Mychal Hill - NSC

I am going to NSC to get a better education than I got in the past at high school. Education is important to me because it will help me achieve a better future.

Darren Yee - NSC

I started at NSC because of a scholarship I had, if it wasn't for that scholarship I would probably either not be in college, or working full time to be able to go to CSN. I have about a year left until I graduate and cutting the funding out of this school would decrease the chance of them offering the classes that I need to graduate. As a Math major, the math classes that are offered are very limited since there aren't that many of us. Each class I choose in the next couple semesters are very important to me if I intend to graduate when I plan to. By cutting funding, I lose the quality of the education I have, and the supplies that are used during school. Funding at this school is vital for me, if I wish to succeed.

Richard Villanueva - NSC

Before I started attending NSC I really didn't have any direction in life, I didn't know what I wanted to do or be. Nevada State College has given me the opportunity and the tools to attain my dream of becoming a teacher. Right now I'm major in secondary education with a concentration in mathematics, every single day I take two buses totaling two hours of traveling just to get to this institution, and I do it because I know what the importance of education means. Without Nevada State College I honestly don't know what I would be doing, I'd most likely be working at McDonald's. So when given the decision of either an education or working at the finest fast food destination I think I chose right. So please don't cut funding unless you would like another dead end worker at McDonalds. The End!

Rex Matthew Mitchell - NSC

College was never very important to me until I came here to Nevada State College. I grew up in this valley and have seen a large number of people I known over the years get by without a college degree. They have spent their days working hard in construction or and the beckoning whim of tourists by working in the casino industry. Both of these lives and lifestyles are perfectly fine to live … just not for myself. I was one of those college students who were just 'attending' college because there was nothing else to do. That is until I started taking classes at NSC. After starting school at NSC I not only discovered what I wanted to do with my life but also how to accomplish it.

Christian Heilman - NSC

Life at NSC, in all its facets, is really helpful. Teachers involve students and nurture them. Teachers require attendance which is good compared to UNLV where they don't care if you're showing up. I've been to both schools and honestly prefer NSC. I will be graduating here and pursuing my degree in math and secondary education here. The cost of school is also a plus, but it is not the decision maker. I could go to UNLV if I wanted to, but I feel at home at NSC. That is why I made NSC my home.

Barbara Kidd - NSC

I am in college because I want to make a good life for myself and my future family. College is important to me because I know if I don't get an education my goals and dreams will never happen. I am currently in school to become a nurse; my calling in life is to work with special needs children. I fell in love with these kids when I worked with them in high school and when my sister was fostering them. If I don't get through college then I won't be able to work with these kids because I won't have the training needed to give them the care they truly need.

Jade Alfasi - NSC

I enjoy having small classes where I can truly learn and have a chance to ask questions. I am going to be the best doctor in the world one day, but it would be a lot easier if I kept a school that does help me as much as Nevada State College does.

Trisha Fraser - NSC

My name is Trisha Frazer and I am a 22 year old single mother attending Nevada State College. Coming back to school is highly important to financially support my daughter and myself. NSC attracted me because of their school of nursing. The fall 2010 semester is my first semester here in Henderson, Nevada. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity of strengthening my future.

Sebring Frehner - NSC

I lived the first 5 years of my live in a trailer home in a mining town called Nelson, Nevada. From age 5 to age 10 I lived in a trailer park in Eastern Las Vegas. My parents never found the American Dream people talk about. In high school I was one of the many students that got exceptional grades, was a student leader & pushed myself to be smarter even when teachers failed to provide anything resembling rigor. Teachers nagged me about whether I was going to go to college but I knew my family couldn't afford it. I wasn't one of the lucky students that had parents guide them on how to get awarded the much needed money. Instead I was slumped into the ill prepared & under educated work force.

It wasn't until I was 22 years old that my parents were able to save up the money to allow me to attend UNLV for a couple of years; I still struggled to keep a roof over my head. Those 2 years opened my eyes. My parents and I were paying a fortune for an education I wasn't actually getting because I was being taught by under prepared graduate students. I reentered the workforce, with further disgust for Nevada's education systems, while I attended CSN night classes in a meager attempt to continue my education. CSN has few of the classes I needed so I again quit college. Years later I discovered NSC; at the time it was nothing but a renovated vitamin factory. The teachers were so caring and rigorous that it gave me a small glimmer of hope. I still wasn't able to afford to attend full time and NSC didn't have the other night classes I needed, so I once again stalled my education. At age 31 I was laid off from my job and had to move my recently divorced mother in with me. Through friends I learned how to receive student loans, which is the only thing that saved me from being homeless. About the same time I went back to college my mother started attending NSC as well. She was hesitant until I explained to her that if she ever wanted to have anything resembling real job stability and decent pay she would have to get a degree. So, at my urging she enrolled and just graduated as the first person in my entire family tree to receive a college degree.

Today I am 33 years old, student body president of Nevada State College, a founding member of the Capitol Club-Nevada Student Coalition, a staunch advocate for Nevada students, and an avid community volunteer. I am also very close to having the bachelor degree that I started so many years before. If anyone in Nevada knows the value of education it's me, specifically because I have suffered the results of not having an education. I won't ask any politician to do what is right. I will ask you to put yourself into my father's shoes; a father who was a high school drop out that couldn't afford to send his son to college. I will ask you to provide me with an equal opportunity to succeed and become the type of leader Nevadan's need.