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April 29th, 2003

Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor:
Re: AB 452

My name is Dr. Paul Davis and I am speaking in favor of AB 452. I would like to note for the record that I am professor of Political Science and International Terrorism at Truckee Meadows Community College and also at the University of Nevada. In addition I am the General Public Member on the Nevada Board of Dispensing Opticians.

I would like to state for the record that although the program for dispensing opticians is located at the Community College of Southern Nevada; the utilization of a distance education program at Truckee Meadows Community College allows all interested candidates in Northern Nevada (Reno, Carson City and Elko) to receive a degree and pursue a career as a dispensing optician.

I currently teach and have previously taught distance education cablecasts to Great Basin College and UNLV for Truckee Meadows Community College. I have attached four pages dealing with the phenomenal growth of distance education from the *University and community College System of Nevada Report On Distance Education October 2002 prepared for the Board of Regents* which can be fully accessed at www.nevada.edu. There are two points I would like to mention:

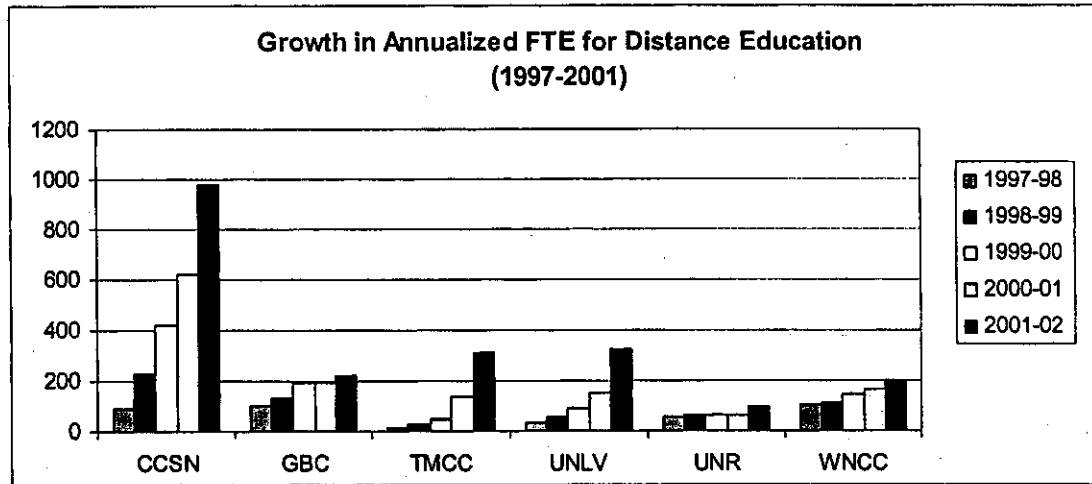
- 1) Distance education classes began in 1997 and now encompass 4.26% of the entire University and Community College System of Nevada enrollment based on the 2001-2002 academic year so it is here to stay and is growing at a tremendous rate.
- 2) Distance Education External Partnerships have been established and the Nevada Opticians Association is an important member.

In short, candidates who wish to pursue a degree and a career as a dispensing optician and living in Northern Nevada will have no problem in accomplishing this goal.

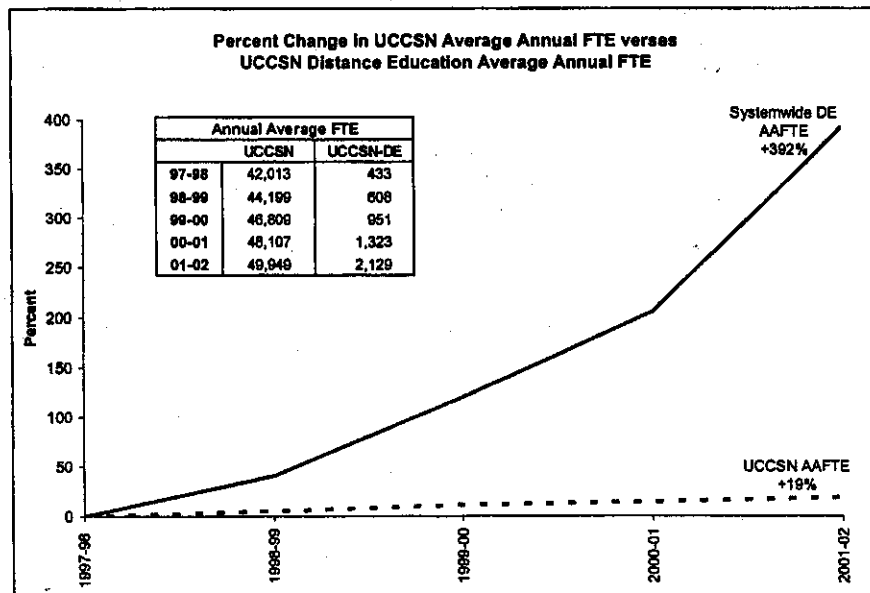
Sincerely,



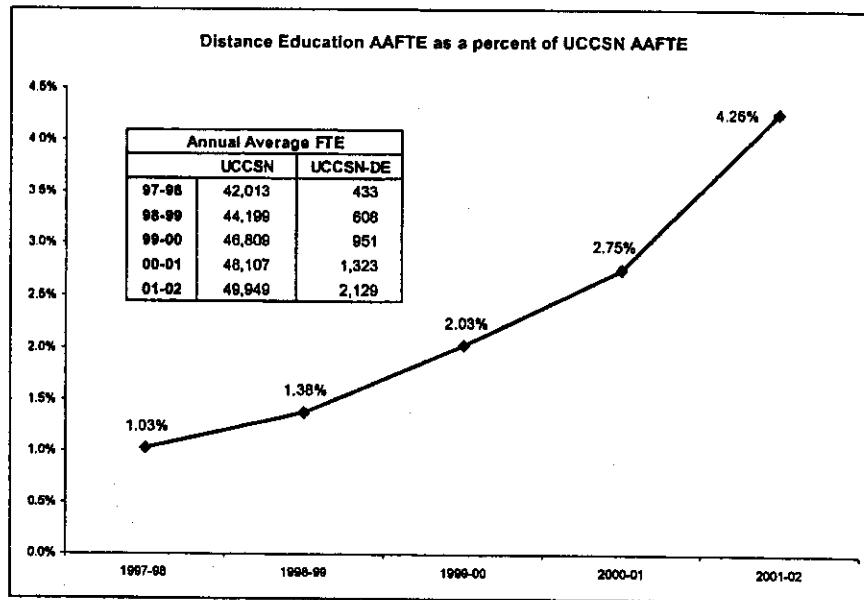
PAUL B. DAVIS, Ph.D.
General Public Member: Nevada Board of Dispensing Opticians
Professor of Political Science and International Terrorism
University of Nevada System



The following graph compares the System-wide annualized FTE for pure DE courses to the overall System's annualized FTE. From this graph it is apparent that growth in FTE for DE has outpaced the System's overall FTE. System-wide FTE for DE grew 392 percent between the 1997-1998 academic year and 2001-2002. During the same five-year period, the System's overall FTE grew 19 percent.



The following graph depicts the AAFTE for DE across the System as a percent of UCCSN's AAFTE. Since the 1997-1998 academic year, AAFTE for distance education has steadily increased as a percent of the System's AAFTE from 1.03 percent to 4.26 percent in 2001-2002.



In sum, these graphs provide a clear indication of each campus's commitment to providing programs and services that address the unique educational goals of Nevada's highly diverse and non-traditional population. However, it is important to note that demand for DE courses on each of the campuses often exceeds course capacity. Following is a table with information concerning the number of "attempts" to register for a DE course. "Attempts" is defined to mean the number of attempts to register for a course after the course has been filled.

	Number of "Attempts" to Register for Pure DE Courses		
	Fall 2001	Spring 2002	TOTAL
CCSN	9,053	12,312	21,365
GBC	112	84	196
TMCC	960	1,550	2,510
UNLV	1,028	3,574	4,602
UNR	77	0	77*
WNCC	99	120	219

* UNR's figures are for WebCT semester-based courses only. Students interested in enrolling in IAV courses have always been accommodated. Independent Learning courses do not have maximums.

DISTANCE EDUCATION EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

The UCCSN campuses recognize the value of forging partnerships outside of the System to facilitate delivery of DE courses. In a number of cases, these partnerships allow the various campuses to reach markets to which they otherwise might not have ready access. In addition, some partnerships have allowed community organizations to utilize UCCSN resources. Further, intra-system partnerships have been formed among a number of the campuses, as individual campuses know the importance of sharing resources. In all cases, these partnerships allow the campuses to deliver DE courses more efficiently and effectively.

The following are the DE external partnerships formed by respective UCCSN campuses:

Community College of Southern Nevada

- Lincoln County School District
- National Institute for First Assisting
- ACT Center
- ITC Learning Corporation

Great Basin College

- Elko County Public Schools
- White Pine Public Schools
- Humboldt County Public Schools
- Eureka County Public Schools
- Duck Valley Housing Authority
- Duck Valley Hospital
- Lander County Extension Service
- Community hospitals in Winnemucca, Elko, and Ely
- Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST)
- County Libraries in Elko, Lander, and Eureka
- Area Health Education Center
- Northeastern Nevada Technology Consortium
- Rural Emergency Medical Grant Partners

Truckee Meadows Community College

- Reno/Sparks/Washoe County Public Safety Joint Training Center
- Washoe County School District
- Sierra Nevada Job Corps
- Washoe Medical Center
- Paiute Nation (selected courses)
- Charter Cable Systems
- Sierra Nevada Community Access Television (SNCAT)
- Channel 5/KNPB Public Broadcasting
- System Computing Services (SCS)
- California Virtual College/Professional Development Center
- Nevada State Health Division/Center for Disease Control Education programs
- Association of Product Inventory Control Specialists
- Nevada Opticians Association
- Nevada Dental Hygiene Association
- Nevada Division of Aging Services
- Nevada Rural Health Project

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- Clark County School District
- Pahrump Valley High School
- Mineral High School
- National Association of State Directors of Special Education
- Borderless Access to Training and Education (BATE) (in cooperation with the University of Montana and the University of South Dakota)
- Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County

University of Nevada, Reno

- Churchill County School District
- Douglas County School District
- Lyon County School District
- Washoe County School District
- Nevada State Library and Archives
- Humboldt County Hospital
- Mt. Grant Hospital (Hawthorne)
- Pershing General Hospital
- Elko County School District
- Lund High School
- Nye County School District
- QuadraVision Wireless Cable
- National Judicial College
- Nevada Public Libraries
- State of Nevada Attorney General
- CYFERnet (national Extension/Land Grant University web site)

Western Nevada Community College

- Carson City School District
- Douglas County School District
- Lyon County School District
- Mineral County School District
- Pershing County School District
- Lyon County
- Nevada Commission on Economic Development
- Nevada Department of Prisons (Staff Development)
- Nevada Department of Training and Rehabilitation
- Nevada Emergency Medical and Trauma Services
- Harley-Davidson Financial Services
- Bently Nevada Corporation