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IN BUSINESS Las Vegas

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From the editor ...

Selecting a school ranks as one of the most important choices parents make for their children. An education paves the early foundation for the growth and development of our future. That lies in the hands of the kids.

This section is designed with two educational avenues in mind. First, we present information to help you decide if private school is right for you. There are stories that profile some of those schools in the valley as well as a comprehensive directory that's chock full of facts, figures and contact information. Second, we showcase opportunities for adults who are thinking about returning to school or switching careers. There is also a directory for many of those options.



It's important to begin the education process early in life. We all remember stories or events that occurred during our childhoods, many of these memories related to a lesson at school or words from a teacher that have stuck close to the heart over the years. Everyone has a deep and vested interest in the education process. After all, how many times have we heard that today's youths are tomorrow's leaders?

As the valley grows, your choices expand. In the past decade, more and more private and parochial schools have come onto the scene. Each is different in its own way, but we hope this section helps narrow the scope for what you're looking for. One of the best ways to help in the decision-

making process is to schedule a visit.

When it comes to adult education, the choices here are limitless. Assessing which direction you can want to steer your life after high school is an important decision. Trade and professional schools offer all of the tools necessary for promising careers in this city. And, great opportunities lie at UNLV and the Community College of Southern Nevada.

Plus, if you feel like you are in a dead-end job or just plain and simply bored with what you're doing, explore your options. We provide information about switching careers and what that entails.

We hope this special section provides help with the options and choices that lie ahead. It can be valuable in enhancing your or your family's educational dreams.

Rob Langrell
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From the sponsor ...

Dear *In Business Las Vegas* readers,
 For the fourth consecutive year, Silver State Schools Credit Union is proud to sponsor the publication of the *In Business Las Vegas* "Education" supplement – a comprehensive guide to education options in Southern Nevada.



As a credit union with an educational member base, we believe that ethical, caring, community-minded principles are just as important in financial institutions as in the education system. That's why we are involved in a range of not-for-profit programs and activities to benefit the education community.

Our support takes many different forms, including donations, college and new teacher/ masters of education scholarships, sponsorships, partnerships and specialized support programs. Among these are grade-appropriate financial literacy programs* for students, including the National Endowment for Financial Education's "High School Financial Planning" Program.

The materials offered by this program provide a basic introduction to all aspects of personal finances and show students how to develop their own spending and savings

plan. The credit union is able to make this free curriculum available to any Nevada high school, public or private. We are also delighted to offer any of our grade-appropriate financial literacy programs upon request.

The credit union is very proud of our efforts in youth financial literacy. We know that if we empower students to take responsibility for managing their money wisely, they will be better citizens, and stand a better chance of realizing their potential, and leading fulfilling and valuable lives.

Sincerely,

Dave Rhamy
 President/CEO
 Silver State Schools Credit Union

* For information on any of our financial literacy programs, please call Mariclar Reyes, Marketing Specialist, at 702.697.8082.

Merryhill Academy students are immersed in a curriculum that includes mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, fine arts, Spanish, technology, health and physical education.



Going the private school route

Local private education offers parents a wealth of options

By Lisa McQuerrey, Contributing Writer

Today's parents have many choices when it comes to how they educate their children. Public, private, charter, magnet – even home schooling is growing in popularity. Which is the best option? It all depends on what you're looking for and how much money you have to spend.

Nevada public schools are frequently criticized for garnering poor marks in teacher salaries, class size and performance measures. Yet, public schools typically have limited options when it comes to how they operate and the resources that are available to them. Public schools are funded through tax dollars and are required to admit all children, including children with special needs. Public schools are also required to follow a host of federal, state and local laws that govern how funding is used, what programs are offered, and the curriculum and performance measurements that are put in place.

Private schools, on the other hand, are supported through tuition; therefore, they have the ability to custom tailor curricula and assume more flexibility in hiring educators. They can also limit the number for students in class, enforce stricter dress and behavior codes and, when necessary, eliminate students who aren't deemed a "good fit."

"Public schools don't have the freedoms that we do," said Clint Kirry, marketing manager for Challenger Schools.

Kirry said educational studies show very little correlation between per-pupil spending, class size and student achievement. He asserted what really matters in terms of student performance is curriculum and teaching methodology.

"Children come to us between the ages of three and five with the ability to do a lot more than public schools give them credit for," said Kirry. "Challenger uses a logical, step-by-step conceptual teaching method from the known to the unknown, building up so that a concept is understood. That style of teaching continues through the eighth grade. For

example, we teach cause and effect chronological history instead of asking students to memorize facts, names and dates."

Many local, private-school spokespeople note that the key reason parents seek out private education is because private schools are not forced, by circumstance or by law, to teach to the "lowest common denominator" or "teach to the test." Private schools offer a level of stability not typically feasible for public schools in a fast-growing community. While a child who attends public school may have to change schools if they move to a different neighborhood or if zoning districts are redrawn, children enrolled in private

"We've also got families who have been in the public system and say their kids aren't getting enough attention. They're tired of their children being taught 'to the norm.'"

Kimberly Way, Principal,
Merryhill Schools' Durango campus

as well.

"We have a proven program," Goodman noted. "Being the unusual 24-hour town we are, this type of stability is significant."

Finding qualified teachers doesn't appear to be a problem for private schools as it has been in recent years with the Clark County School District (CCSD). "Teachers seek us out," said Janet Smith, director for Warren-Walker. "We always have a large pool of applicants."

Warren-Walker requires teachers with a bachelor's degree, though a master's is preferred. They must also have

facilities can attend the same school without interruption.

"I'm pleased that there are a lot of alternative programs available in Las Vegas," said Carolyn Goodman, board chair of The Meadows School. Goodman said while high academics and a range of extracurricular activities are important to Meadows parents; stability and consistency are valued

at least three years classroom teaching experience.

Warren-Walker was recently purchased by Meritos Family of Schools.

According to Jeff Lackey, director of Southern Highland Preparatory Academy, parents of his school are concerned about the school and class sizes in the public system, and are looking for a higher level of academics. Lackey is one of several private-school directors who noted private-school students typically perform at least one grade level higher than their public-school counterparts and standardized school-wide test scores are typically at or above the 90 percentile.

"Our teaching methodology and environment allow us to be more effective," said Lackey, who noted his campus sees few discipline problems, and a great deal of student and parent involvement. "We can stay on top of what each student is doing."

Kimberly Way, principal of Merryhill Schools' Durango campus, said interest in her school is continually increasing. "People who are coming here from outside the area hear and read about the national ranking of the public school system and look at private education right from the start," Way said.

"We also have families who have been in the public system and say their kids aren't getting enough attention. They're tired of their children being taught 'to the norm.'"

According to Way, an increasing number of parents want to see a higher level of accountability. They're giving weight to issues outside academics including a school's use of technology, arts curriculum and safety measures.

"Private schools are about family," noted Way. "We can adjust our programs to meet the needs of our students rather than making the child conform to our standards. We can find their learning style and differentiate instruction."

Way joins the ranks of many local private-school administrators who say flexibility is a big part of what sets private schools apart from their public counterparts. Public and private schools both require licensing, but private schools have more flexibility in accepting a teacher's out-of-state experience.

Interestingly, private schools do not disparage the

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experience, ability or enthusiasm of public school teachers, saying teachers in public schools simply have their hands tied by rules and regulations that limit their effectiveness in the classroom.

Another aspect of private education that seems to be driving increased interest is that of "values instruction." Private schools have the ability to be less rigid than public schools when it comes to subjects such as ethics and morality, which are often shied away from in public schools in the name of political correctness.

"We teach personal responsibility, and American and universal values of decency and respect," said Kirry. "It's hard for public schools to decide what type of values to teach."

According to the National Association of Independent Schools, the median tuition for private day schools in the United States is close to \$12,000 for grades 1-3, \$13,000 for grades 6-8 and \$15,000 for grades 9-12. Las Vegas numbers reflect the national average for the most part, though many institutions offer lower tuitions for families with multiple children enrolled. Private schools with ties to churches and synagogues typically are supported in part by their parishes and charge slightly lower rates.

Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy (Agassi Prep)

1201 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas

Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy (Agassi Prep) is an independent public charter school serving children in grades K-12. The school places emphasis on self-discipline, respect and individualized attention, and offers a college prep curriculum of core subjects.

Established in one of the valley's largest at-risk neighborhoods, Agassi Prep enhances skill levels and creates a "climate of hope" in the community. The curriculum includes language arts, math, science, social studies, physical education, arts, music and technology. Involvement with community affairs and cultural activities is encouraged.

Agassi Prep operates on an 8-hour-per-day schedule. Seventy-five percent of students stay an additional hour or two for tutoring and extracurricular activities. The Agassi Prep school calendar is 10 days longer than traditional public school schedules. Summer programs are mandatory for incoming students and for those falling behind. The tuition-free school begins open enrollment each January. Students are selected by lottery.

Challenger Schools

Lone Mountain: 9900 Shiloh School Lane, Las Vegas (Pre-K - 5)

Silverado: 1725 E. Serene Ave., Las Vegas (Pre-K - 3)

Challenger Schools teach concepts in a logically ordered sequence. Three foundation disciplines include language arts (reading, composition, grammar), math and logic. Students are taught that concepts are built logically on previous concepts, and they learn to look for the connections between them. Challenger asserts that in the process, students learn sound thinking methods.

Building on the phonetic foundation established in pre-school, Challenger integrates literature, spelling and vocabulary into upper grades. In mathematics, Challenger teaches the concepts behind the shortcuts, encouraging students to reason through problems. In the realm of science, students are encouraged to use the scientific method and make observations, form hypotheses, design experiments and report conclusions.

Challenger's geography classes include observations of each region of the world and study the Earth's physical characteristics, as well as climates, culture, economics and government. History classes analyze how the thinking in one era influenced the events of the next. Open enrollment begins in January and February.

COMING SOON

Rainbow Dreams Academy

950 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
(under construction)

Ground was recently broken on the \$4.6 million Rainbow Dreams Academy public charter school. Funded in part by the Anthony L. Pollard Foundation, the school is anticipated to open in the fall of 2006 and initially serve children in grades K-2. The school aims to equip students with a challenging academic curriculum that prepares them for educational success and helps them become productive members of society.

"Culturally, this area is very diverse, and it's important for kids to learn about cultural differences in elementary school, when they're much more accepting of one another," said Diane Hughes, president of the Anthony L. Pollard Foundation. "It makes for a better learning environment."

Rainbow Dreams Academy expects to offer Spanish in all grades and interweave African-American history into its curriculum in a way that hasn't been done before. After school programs are open to children valley wide. The 12,000-square-foot facility features eight classrooms, a multimedia library, administrative offices, commercial kitchen, and multipurpose room that will be available for community events and activities.

Merryhill Schools

Green Valley: 2150 Windmill Parkway, Henderson

Peccole Ranch: 10050 Alta Drive, Las Vegas

Southwest: 5050 Durango Road, Las Vegas

Summerlin: 2160 Snow Terrace, Las Vegas

Merryhill Schools offer private instruction to children in grades K-5. The school promotes high academic standards with an individualized approach to teaching. Kindergarten classes are limited to 16 students, while other grades are typically kept to 18-19 students.

All Merryhill teachers have a minimum of a bachelor's degree as well as teaching certificates. The curriculum contains nine fundamental areas of education: mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, fine arts, Spanish, technology, health and physical education. Extracurricular activities range from intramural athletics and dance to chess and baking.

Family involvement is encouraged at Merryhill Schools. The school's parent-teacher organization assists in fundraising and in organizing enrichment activities. Merryhill's curriculum reflects its philosophy of educating the "thinking child in a constructive learning community." Fall enrollment for 2006-2007 began in January and continues through May.

Southern Highlands Preparatory School

11500 Southern Highlands Parkway, Las Vegas

Southern Highlands Preparatory School provides programs for students in grades pre-K - 8. Educational components include individualized and personalized education, multicultural orientation and creation of a diverse, cooperative environment. The school encourages development of critical and creative thinking skills.

In addition to its college preparatory program, Southern Highlands offers visual and performing arts, foreign languages and competitive athletics. Extended day and summer programs are available. After-school enrichment activities include karate, science, computer, dance and academic clubs, as well as field trips and social events.

Southern Highlands Preparatory School is an affiliate to Learning Unlimited International Schools. The school plans to begin its next phase of expansion in mid-2007 with the addition of five classrooms.



Merryhill's curriculum focuses on the "thinking child in a constructive learning community."

The Meadows School

8601 Scholar Lane, Las Vegas

The Meadows School serves children in grades pre-K - 12. The school offers a strong classical/traditional college preparatory education. The school provides educational programs to children regardless of race, national or ethnic origins, religious preference or socio-economic standing.

As a college preparatory school, 100 percent of graduates go on to attend a four-year college. A four-year degree is required of teachers serving lower grades; teachers in middle and upper grades must have a master's degree in their area of discipline.

Athletic programs at The Meadows School include baseball, tennis, football, track and field, soccer and softball. Students can undergo pre-admission testing anytime during the year.

Warren-Walker School

2150 Windmill Parkway, Henderson
1165 Sandy Ridge Ave.,

Henderson **W**arren-Walker is a college-preparatory school serving grades pre-K - 12. Graduates are expected to attend four-year colleges. Class size at all grade levels is limited to 18-22 students. Warren-Walker teachers are degreed and credentialed at their assigned grade or in their subject matter area.

Extracurricular activities in the lower school include cross-country track, recreational baseball, basketball and soccer. The upper school offers football, volleyball, basketball, baseball and cross-country track.

The mission of Warren-Walker is to provide programs that challenge average, above average and superior students to think, learn, create, communicate and develop to their highest and fullest potential. Enrollment is open year-round.



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Members of the symphony at The Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy are all smiles. Below, Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman participates in a program.

Faith-based learning

Religious education mixes academics with faith and a values-based curriculum

By Lisa McQuerrey, Contributing Writer

Families in search of a private education with a religious component have a number of choices in Southern Nevada. While religion-based private schools offer instruction in core subjects, they frequently weave church teachings and values into the curriculum in subtle and obvious ways. Many educators say parents come to them seeking not only a quality education, but one consistent with family and religious values not found in public schools.

Religious Education

"We teach our students to be respectful, to do unto others and live lives of integrity in service to others," explained Kevin Dunning, executive director of Faith Lutheran. Faith Lutheran students typically take eight classes per day, one of which is religion, interspersed with short devotions during the course of the day. Dunning said the school has a diverse religious curriculum that includes traditional Bible studies, as well as subjects related to marriage and family, ethics and a course called, "The Big Questions," which allows students to openly discuss social issues of the day.

Dunning said unlike public and non-secular private schools, Faith Lutheran is not "values neutral," though it does allow different perspectives. In science class, Faith Lutheran students are taught the theory of evolution, as well as the Biblical account of creation, though they will be told, "this is what we teach, this is what we believe."



"We recognize others may not have the same values, but we also recognize that we're fundamentally about helping kids encounter Jesus," said Dunning.

Dunning said parents of children at Faith Lutheran are looking for values consistent with those taught at home. From an academic standpoint, Dunning said his students exceed the national average in test scores and have the opportunity to experience a number of extracurricular programs. As a college prep school, more than 90 percent of Faith Lutheran students are college-bound.

St. Viator is part of the Las Vegas Diocese. The private Catholic school's primary mission is to "live, learn and share the gospel message in a physically and emotionally safe learning environment that promotes high academic standards." Principal Kathleen Daulton said a majority of parents choose St. Viator because they want their children surrounded by classmates and

families that share both their faith and values.

St. Viator has an extended class day to accommodate its academic and religious curriculum. "Though it's not just a matter of having 45 minutes of religious education a day," Daulton explained. "The teaching doctrine is permeated through the day and faith is integrated into all subject areas."

The school's curriculum is a "very structured course of study." St. Viator regularly has waiting lists for lower grades and junior high.

Green Valley Christian Executive Director of Education, Deborah Ingalls, said every Christian school is struggling with growth issues today. "For most parents, Christian education is a place where their kids can get a traditional education similar to what was taught at public schools in the 1950s. They want their children to be taught from a Biblical standpoint where there are 'absolute truths' and character values. They see our teachers as good role models."

According to Ingalls, Green Valley Christian provides an integrated curriculum written from a Christian perspective and taught by Christian teachers who are furthering their own personal study of the Bible. Said

Ingalls, "We're trying to educate mentally, emotionally and socially, and bring moral values to every situation."

Ingalls pointed out that society often bombards kids with images and messages inconsistent with values being taught at home. She noted that the school provides freedom to ask questions and examine social issues from an in-depth perspective where students can seek answers free from judgment. Green Valley Christian takes a serious approach to academics. Ingalls said students regularly score in the upper percentile on standardized tests.

The Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy operates an extended day to accommodate both core academic studies and Judaic teachings. Principal Camille Wright

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said about 80 percent of an average day is spent on secular curriculum and 20 percent is devoted to Judaic studies. Less than 10 percent of the school's population is non-Jewish, though Wright said the appeal to those outside the religion can be found in the teachings of a faith-grounded history.

"We present our curriculum with all different modalities in mind where children are presented with a lot of different interpretations," Wright explained. "We also have strong parental involvement and a sense of community involvement."

According to the National Association of Independent Schools, a majority of private schools in the U.S. are parochial schools. While most religion-based schools don't require students to be of the affiliated faith, most give preference to congregation members and require all students to attend religious ed classes and prayer services.

Bishop Gorman High School
1801 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas

Bishop Gorman High School teaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ, prepares students for higher education, and creates a community where service is valued and celebrated. It stresses accountability, excellence, leadership and stewardship within a core curriculum including advanced placement and honors classes.

Bishop Gorman's student/faculty ratio is 25:1. Seventy-two percent of the faculty has advanced degrees, including four percent with doctorates. A campus ministry provides opportunity for involvement in retreats, service, worship and community. Students are required to perform 10 hours of community work each semester.

Extracurricular activities at Bishop Gorman include 20 sports, three spirit groups, 16 clubs and student government.

Faith Lutheran Jr. - Sr. High School
2015 S. Hualapai, Las Vegas

Operated by 13 Lutheran congregations, Faith Lutheran is one of the largest non-public schools in Nevada. The school stresses a commitment to Christian values and academic excellence. Seventy percent of students are "churched," while 30 percent are not. Students regularly perform above the national average in standardized testing.

Faith Lutheran has won more than 20 state athletic championships at the A and AA levels. Other extracurricular activities include choir, band, drama and fine arts, as well as a variety of club activities. Open admission begins in November for the following school year.

Green Valley Christian School
711 Valle Verde Court, Henderson

Green Valley Christian School offers a curriculum of study in core subjects, as well as religious education. Students regularly perform in the top percentile on standardized achievement tests. A variety of after-school sports programs are available, including flag football, basketball, soccer and volleyball.

Green Valley Christian School is accredited with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the Association of Christian Schools International.

Open enrollment begins Feb. 15.

The Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy
9700 W. Hillpoint Road, Las Vegas

The Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy stresses cultural diversity while absorbing the value of Jewish ethics and morals. The academy provides a "morally structured but accepting environment" with a focus on brain-based learning strategies.

The Jewish day school offers both an accelerated academic and Jewish education. The academy's teacher/student ratio is 15:1. Graduates are all college-bound. The school offers advanced placement courses.

St. Viator Parish School
4246 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas

St. Viator Parish School strives to guide students in becoming well-rounded members of society consistent with church teachings from a spiritual, academic and social standpoint. Teaching is based on the school's continuously updated understanding of the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.


St. Viator strives to expose student to a sequential and challenging curriculum and to develop an awareness of their individual roles in the Christian Community.

Kindergarten enrollment begins each January. Returning students must register in February and open enrollment begins in March, though students may join a waiting list at any time. Preference is given to parish members.



Students at The Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy get a chance to attend a field trip away from their core academic studies and Judaic teachings.

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2150 Windmill Pkwy.	
Peccole Ranch	702-221-6337
10050 Alta Dr.	
Summerlin	702-242-3230
2150 Snow Trail	

MerryhillSchool.com

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Guide to private schools around Las Vegas

	School, address, phone Number	Chief administrator	Grades	Enrollment	Student:Teacher ratio	Tuition	School philosophy, Website
1.	Academy for Learning 1018 E. Sahara Ave., Suite D, Las Vegas 89104 702.737.8668	Ginny Schmitz	K-12	35	11:1	\$500 per month	Traditional curriculum of applied scholastics
2.	Alexander Dawson School at Rainbow Mountain 10845 W. Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas 89135 702.949.3600	Dr. Michael Hughes	Pre-K to 8	570	12:1	\$16,400-\$16,700	Non-denominational college preparatory school with a focus on language, science, math, thematic education and visual arts www.alexanderdawsonschool.org
3.	American Heritage Academy 6126 S. Sandhill Road, Suite C, Las Vegas 89120 702.949.5614	TBD	K-8	240	14:1	\$3,300	Preparatory school with a focus on patriotism, religion and morality along with a core academic curriculum www.americanheritageelv.org
4.	All Saints' Day School 4201 W. Washington Ave., Las Vegas 89107 702.878.1205	Peggy Nettenstrom	Pre-K to K	75	12:1	\$185 to \$280/month	Well-rounded traditional curriculum www.allsaintsds.com
5.	Bishop Gorman College Preparatory School 1801 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas 89107 702.732.1945	Dr. Paul Sullivan	9-12	936	24:1	\$8,475 \$7,238/Parishioner	Coed Catholic preparatory high school with a focus on religious formation and academic excellence www.bishopgorman.org
6.	Black Mountain Christian School & Daycare 107 S. Gibson Road, Henderson 89012 702.564.2435	Rev. Barbara Miller	Pre-K to 12	46	21:1	Pre-K: \$115/week 1-12: \$2,500-\$3,200	Christian atmosphere using the School of Tomorrow's Accelerated Christian Education curriculum www.bm4square.org
7.	Calvary Chapel Christian School 7175 W. Oquendo Road, Las Vegas 89113 702.248.8879	John Weaver	K-12	526	24:1	\$3,500-\$3,900	Christian-based education utilizing a Christian curriculum including the Saxton Method, Bob Jones University and ABEKA www.cccslions.org
8.	Calvary Christian Learning Academy 2900 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas 89113 702.655.1385	Heather McNulty	Dayschool to Pre-K K-5	120 100	5:1 18:1	\$125/week \$4,500	Learn for life, dedicated to teaching truth, and preparing our students to be tomorrow's leaders by challenging them to live his or her life www.ccalv.org
9.	Centennial Academy 6610 Grand Montecito Parkway, Las Vegas 89149	Miriam Duke	Pre-K to 6	285	Up to 20:1	Preschool: Varies K-6: \$8,000	To challenge young minds and bodies by providing a strong challenge-based academic curriculum and age-appropriate experiences in creative arts, socialization, physical education, self-help skills, computer and nutrition studies www.centennialacademy.com
10.	Challenger Schools Lone Mountain Campus 9900 Isaac Newton Way, Las Vegas 89129 702.878.6418 Silverado Campus 1725 E. Serene Ave., Las Vegas 89123 702.990.7300	Lillian Brumwell Hugh Gourgeon	Pre-School to 6 Pre-School to 3	609 440	Varies	Preschool: \$2,430-\$9,120; Elementary/Middle: \$6,300-\$10,790	Teaching concepts built logically on previously taught concepts, resulting in sound thinking methods www.challengerschool.com
11.	Christ Lutheran Children's Center 111 N. Torrey Pines Road, Las Vegas 89108 702.878.1176	Tasha Fickas	Pre-K (2-6 yrs old)	77	12:1	\$125/week	Faith-based kindergarten preparatory school
12.	Cornerstone Christian Academy 5825 W Eldora Avenue, Las Vegas 89146 702.939.5050	James Whiddon	Pre-K to 8	350	12:1 to 22:1	\$4,600-\$4,900	Core academic studies and extracurricular activities www.cornerstone-academy.com
13.	Desert Torah Academy 1261 S. Arville St., Las Vegas 89102 702.259.0777	Dina Harlig	Pre-School to 8	185	10:1	\$6,000	Judaic and general studies, as well as extracurricular activities www.chabadlv.org
14.	Echoes Christian Academy 1401 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas 89101 702.649.8744	Pauline Clark	K-12	20	10:1	\$300/month	Individualized pace programs
15.	Faith Community Lutheran Academy 2700 S. Town Center Drive, Las Vegas 89135 702.921.2777	Jerry Reinerston	K-5	245	24:1 +	\$6,010	Christ-centered, child-focused www.faithlasvegas.org
16.	Faith Lutheran Jr.-Sr. High School 2015 S. Hualapai Way, Las Vegas 89117 702.804.4400	Kevin Dunning	6-12	1,250	18:1	\$7,260	Private Christian college prep school with a Lutheran heritage www.faithlutheranlv.org
17.	First Christian Church Child Development Center 101 S. Rancho Drive, Las Vegas 89103 702.384.4839	Melody March	Pre-K to K	110	8:1	\$455-\$555/month	Faith-based learning environment www.fcclv.com
18.	First Good Shepherd Lutheran School 301 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas 89101 702.382.8610	Jim Kraft	K-6	207	30:1 K-3 w/aide	\$3,960	Well-rounded faith-based curriculaum of core subjects www.fgsls.org
19.	Foothills Montessori School 1401 Amador Lane, Henderson 89102 702.407.0790	Leanne Grafiada	Pre-K to 8	330	10:1	\$5,500-\$8,500	Challenging Montessori curriculum that provides academic excelence and nures a lifelong passion for learning www.foothillsmontessori.com
20.	Gateway Christian Academy 1900 Gateway Road, Las Vegas 89115 702.452.7111	Ginny Proffitt	K-12	45	5:1	\$300/month	Well-rounded Christian-based instruction using the ABEKA curriculum and a set of studies developed by Pensacola Christian College
21.	Grace Christian Academy 1150 Wyoming St., Boulder City 89005 702.293.3536	Marcia Harhay	K-6	37	8:1-12:1	K: \$2,935 1-6: \$3,835	Growing kids in grace and knowledge
22.	Green Valley Christian School 711 Valle Verde Court, Henderson 89014 702.454.4056	Deborah Ingalls	Pre-K to 8	700	15:1	Infant to Pre-K: \$169/wk K-8: \$4,200-\$6,000	Private non-denominational Christian school teaching from ABEKA and Bob Jones University curricula www.Gvchristianschool.com
23.	Green Valley Lutheran Pre-school & Kindergarten 1799 Wigwam Parkway, Henderson 89074 702.454.0004	Shawn Nielsen	K	25	10:1	\$115-\$140/week	Traditional faith-based education www.greenvalleylutheran.com
24.	Hillcrest Academy 1051 Sandy Ridge Ave., Henderson 89052 702.597.2778	Patricia Riley	Pre-K to 5	210	10:1 to 18:1	\$3,300-\$9,500	Traditional accelerated curriculum based on proven educational principals www.hillcrestacademy.com
25.	Imprints Day School 8185 Tamarus St., Las Vegas 89193 702.270.2077	Lillie Englund	Pre-School to 5	200	12:1	\$93-\$200/week	NAEYC-accredited, emergent curriculum, with emphasis in cultural arts, in which students learn at their own pace www.imprintsdayschool.com
26.	International Christian Academy 8100 Westcliff Drive, Las Vegas 89145 702.869.1109	Bob Mekus	K-8	420	K-2: 12:1 3-8: 24:1	\$4,962	Christian-based education utilizing ABEKA and Bob Jones University curricula www.ICALC.net
27.	Lake Mead Christian Academy 540 E. Lake Mead Parkway, Henderson 89015 702.565.5831	Gayle Sue Blakeley	K-12	449	15:1 to 20:1	\$3,020-\$4,739	Traditional instruction using ABEKA and Bob Jones University curricula www.LMCA.org
28.	Lamb of God Lutheran School 6232 N. Jones Boulevard, Las Vegas 89130 702.645.4941	Craig Busseau	Pre-K to 6	240	Up to 24:1	\$5,900	Christian education program www.lambschool.org

	School, address, phone Number	Chief administrator	Grades	Enrollment	Student:Teacher ratio	Tuition	School philosophy, Website
29.	Las Vegas Day School 3275 Red Rock St., Las Vegas 89146 702.362.1180	Neil Daseler	Pre-School to 8	650	9:1 to 17:1	Up to Pre-K: \$235-\$700/month K-8: \$935/month	Accelerated curriculum and college preparatory format www.lvds.com
30.	Liberty Baptist Academy 6501 W. Lake Mead Boulevard, Las Vegas 89146 702.647.4522	John Shorer	K-12	127	12:1	\$1,755-\$1,955	ABEKA curriculum www.libertybaptistlv.org
31.	Maranatha Academy 700 Lola Ave., North Las Vegas 89030 702.399.4315	Zenaida Manibusan	K-8	20	Varies	\$4,000	Focuses on high academics, offering a traditional curriculum with emphasis on the sciences, technology basics, computer science and maths
32.	The Meadows School 8601 Scholar Lane, Las Vegas 89128-7302 702.254.1610	Robert Ryske	Pre-K to 12	877	11:1	\$7,500-\$13,950	Non-profit, non-sectarian, co-educational college preparatory school serving the academically ambitious student www.themeadowsschool.org
33.	Merryhill Schools Green Valley: 2150 Windmill Parkway, Henderson 89104 702.896.0781 Peccole Ranch: 10050 Alta Drive, Las Vegas 89126 702.221.6337 Southwest: 5050 Durango Road, Las Vegas 89128 702.889.2803 Summerlin: 2160 Snow Trail, Las Vegas 89134 702.242.8838	Meg Wagner Lisa Fitzgerald Nina Taylor & Kimberly Way Kim Roden & Mary Butler	Pre-K to 4	1,200	Varies	\$7,300-\$9,250	“Whole child” approach combines age-appropriate curricula including arts, music, Spanish, computers and physical education with hands-on experimentation and social development www.merryhill-school.com
34.	The Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy 9700 W. Hillpointe Road, Las Vegas 89134 702.255.4500	Camille Wright	Pre-K to 8	240	9:1 to 18:1	\$9,000-\$12,000	Diverse curriculum focusing on high academic performance in general and Judaic studies www.lvhebrewacademy.org
35.	Montessori Children’s World 3551 E. Sunset Road, Las Vegas 89120 702.451.9801	Lori Bossy	Pre-School to 6	250	10:1	\$5,500-\$7,000	Curriculum focuses on academic excellence, individual learning, Spanish, music, art and yoga www.montessorilasvegas.com
36.	Mountain View Christian School 3900 E. Bonanza Road, Las Vegas 89110 702.452.1300 X 221	Crystal VanKempen-McClanahan	Pre-K to 12	650	16:1 to 22:1	\$4,412-\$5,568	Christian-based traditional curriculum with goal of graduating Christian leaders
37.	Mount Olive Lutheran School 3875 S. Sandhill Road, Las Vegas 89121 702.451.1050	Steve Rosenbaum	K-8	78	18:1 to 22:1	\$4,300	Educate young people for faithful, capable and intelligent citizenship in today’s world www.MTOliveLV.org
38.	Mountain View Lutheran School 9550 W. Cheyenne Ave., Las Vegas 89129 Elementary: 702.804.5291 Preschool: 702.233.9323	Ross Chillies	Pre-K to 5	268	15:1 to 24:1	\$3,600-\$4,950	Vigorous and exciting Christ-centered curriculum
39.	New Horizons Academy 6701 W Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas 89146 702.876.1181	Dr. Roger Gehring	Pre-K to 12	175	10:1	\$10,200	Specialty school for above-average children and children with learning differences www.nhalv.org
40.	Omar Haikal’s Islamic Academy 485 E. Eldorado Lane, Las Vegas 89123 702.614.9002	Nancy Gasho	K-8	89	Varies	\$5,200-\$8,000	Academic, moral and social excellence in an Islamic environment www.Islamicacademylv.com
41.	Our Lady of Las Vegas School 3046 Alta Drive, Las Vegas 89107 702.878.6841	Richard Martinez	Pre-K to 8	670	25:1	\$3,800	Traditional curriculum, as well as Christian studies www.OLLV.org
42.	Paradise Christian Academy 2525 Emerson Ave., Las Vegas 89121 702.732.8256	Mike Matijevich	Pre-K to 12	200	15:1 to 21:1	\$4,345-\$4,592	Christian-based education using ABEKA curriculum www.paradisechristianacademy.org
43.	Redeemer Lutheran Elementary School 1730 N. Pecos Road, Las Vegas 89115 702.642.5176	Patricia Davis	K-2	60	10:1	\$360/month	Christian-based education in all core curriculum subjects
44.	Southern Highlands Preparatory School 11500 Southern Highlands Parkway, Las Vegas 89141 702.617.6030	Dean Alcott	Pre-K to 8	320	11:1 to 20:1	\$3,600-\$8,300	Traditional academic program allowing children to work at their own pace www.southernhighlandsprep.com
45.	St. Anne Catholic School 1813 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas 89141 702.735.2586	Phyllis Joyce	Pre-K to 8	344	35:1	Varies	Faith-based curriculum www.stannecatholicsschool.com
46.	Spring Valley Christian Academy 7570 W. Peace Way, Las Vegas 89147 702.873.1200	Madeline Childress	K-12	19	Varies	\$2,100-\$4,000	Traditional, faith-based curriculum www.springvalleyassemblyofgod.com
47.	St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Catholic School 1807 Pueblo Vista Drive, Las Vegas 89128 702.804.8328	Tim Curtin	K-8	455	Varies	\$4,075	Traditional, faith-based curriculum www.edline.net/pages/SEASLV
48.	St. Christopher Catholic School 1840 N. Bruce St., Las Vegas 89030 702.657.8008	Emilio Fernandez	K-8	315	35:1	\$2,800	Core curriculum of religion, English, math, reading, science and social studies
49.	St. Frances de Sales School 1111 Michael Way, Las Vegas 89108 702.647.2828	Catherine Thompson	K-8	305	35:1	\$3,000-\$6,960	Christian-based traditional curriculum www.sfdslv.org
50.	St. Joseph’s Catholic School 1300 Bridger Ave., Las Vegas 89101 702.384.6909	Lynda Ballard	K-8	200	25:1	\$260-\$330/month	Religious atmosphere, Catholic studies and a basic core curriculum
51.	St. Viator Catholic School 4246 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas 89119 702.732.4477	Kathleen Daulton	Pre-K to 8	676	Varies	\$3,250-\$4,950	Moral and faith development through religion and family life programs www.members.cox.net/stviatorschool
52.	Trinity Christian Schools High School: 950 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas 89104 702.735.5778 Elementary: 950 E. St. Louis Ave., Las Vegas 89104 702.734.0562	Thurman Warrick	K-12	300	20:1	\$4,580-\$5,550	Core studies including ABEKA curriculum and a “Learning Center” enrichment program www.tcs-lasvegas.org
53.	Trinity United Methodist 6151 W. Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas 89103 702.870.4749	Dr. Daisy Manansala	Pre-K to 3	85	15:1	\$180-\$580/month	ABEKA curriculum
54.	Warren-Walker Green Valley Academy 2150 Windmill Parkway, Henderson 89074 702.896.8430 1165 Sandy Ridge Ave., Henderson 89052 702.616.3027	Janet Smith Ron Bennett	Pre-K to 12	500+	12:1	Up to \$13,395	Basic core curriculum, small class size and one-on-one student-teacher interaction www.warrenwalker.com
55.	Wassell Academy 5000 Edna Lane, Las Vegas 89146 702.876.7970	Carolyn Wassell	Pre-K to 8	125	10:1	\$5,400	Individualized instruction, small class size, well-rounded educational curriculum including languages and computers www.wassellacademy.com
56.	Word of Life Christian Academy 3520 N. Buffalo Drive, Las Vegas 89129 702.645.1180	Kelly Marchello	Pre-K to 8	140	10:1 to 20:1	\$495/month	Academic excellence in a Christian environment www.wordoflifelasvegas.com

STEP addresses teaching shortage

By Allen Grant
Special Publications Writer

Teachers are in high demand and have been for a while, especially here in the Las Vegas Valley.

Yet, how do you convince high school students that a life as an educator is worth more than a higher-paying position in sales, real estate or some other profession? Making a difference in someone's life and impacting future generations is all part of the pitch; but experts contend students can't be pushed into becoming educators.

After combing the nation for transfers and prospective teachers, and even

borrowing educators from countries including the Philippines and Mexico, the Clark County School District (CCSD) and Clark County Education Association Community Foundation (CCEACF), along with a few corporate friends, might finally have the answer to Southern Nevada's teaching shortage – raise them here and keep them here.

Bright future expected for groundbreaking program

"We needed a home-grown program to keep (teachers) here," said John Jasonek, who leads a new program designed to attract local high school students into becoming an educator. According to Jasonek, Las Vegas Valley loses about half of the teachers it recruits from other areas. Reasons vary from culture shock to the difficulty of relocating without family and friends. Even rising

housing costs drive some out of town.

"We're growing faster than our (teachers) are willing to stay here," he said.

Thanks to a joint agreement between the CCEACF, Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN), Nevada State College (NSC) and the school district, qualified area high school students can receive a free jumpstart on college courses, designed to lead to a career as an educator.

"There's been a trend here to acquire future teachers (through various programs)," said Jasonek, CCEACF executive director. "But (this program) is totally unique."

Student to Teacher Enlistment Project (STEP) offers free college-credit classes to local high school juniors. The idea is simple: students take college courses while still attending high school – remaining with their peers and participating in typical high school activities. Upon high school graduation, the students will have completed about a third of their college coursework.

Students then attend CCSN before finishing at NSC. At both locations, students continue to have their tuition and books paid for by the foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities in Clark County. To assist the valley's educator limitations, graduating STEP students must commit to at least a four-year stint as teachers in Clark County classrooms.

"Within three years, these kids (in our inaugural class) will have an immediate impact in our school district," Jasonek said. "We expect to be hiring a minimum of 100 teachers a year from this program."

STEP is designed to accomplish several goals including solving the teacher shortage, closing the achievement gap and helping ethnic minority students attend college. The program's high school students are even treated like their college counterparts – fostering more responsibility and independence.

The foundation, which raised the private financial sources to begin the program, recruited retired teaching professionals to be instructors. The program offers students a chance to achieve their college teaching degree in about three years after high school graduation.

Jasonek said the valley also has a "need for more ethnic minority teachers to serve our growing population of ethnic minority students."

Statistics echo his claim. CCSD data shows more than half of all students in the valley public school system are ethnic minorities, while only about 16 percent of the teachers have similar ethnic backgrounds.

National Education Association officials said they expect STEP to bring more minorities, especially those non-white, into the profession. According to Jasonek, 150 students are enrolled in the program with more than half being ethnic minorities.

In addition, first-generation college students make up nearly 90 percent of the first class of STEP students. "I think it (attracting more students to college) is incredibly positive for our community," Jasonek said. "We're breaking cycles here, and creating more productive tax payers and a more educated community."

With the inaugural STEP class graduating high school this spring and set to attend community college, Jasonek said he expects the program to expand quickly to more students.

"We hope there's a domino and snowball effect of success," he said. "We see the program growing."

Jasonek said studies show students who can identify with their teachers perform better in school, which is why he said he envisions as many as 700 students in the program by 2010.



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is opening its doors to the community on the evening of March 9th. Please be on hand at 7 p.m. for an information session on school admissions, The Summer Institute for the Gifted and Summer at Dawson Programs, followed by a tour of the school. Dawson students are inspired by a world class curriculum that teaches the person as a whole, from math skills to table manners, sociology to social graces.

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Through the Jim Colbert Las Vegas Founders Junior Scholarship Fund, The Greenspun Corporation and Hole In One Challenge, we have awarded scholarships totaling more than \$300,000, making college dreams for many TFTSN participants come true.

www.thefirstteesouthernnevada.org

Guide to local business and professional colleges

	School, Address, Phone Number	Degrees	Areas of study	Tuition	Enrollment	Contact	Placement
1.	Academy of Healing Arts 901 Rancho Lane, Suite 190, Las Vegas, 89106 702.671.4242	N/A	Medical/office assisting, medical front office, massage therapy	\$10,950	200	Lee Parodi	98 percent
2.	American Career Institute 2430 Paseo Del Prado St., Suite D208, Las Vegas, 89102 702.222.3522	Certificate programs	Pre-licensing real estate courses including Nevada real estate law, ethics, practices, principles and procedures	\$295 per credit	DND	Tony Deering	DND
3.	Art Institute of Las Vegas 2350 Corporate Circle, Henderson, 89074 702.369.9944	Associate's and bachelor's degrees	Digital media production, drafting technology, game art and design, graphic design, interactive media design, interior design, media arts and animation, visual effects and motion graphics	\$372 per credit hour	908	Suzanne Noel	95.6 percent
4.	Career Education Institute 2290 Corporate Circle, Suite 100, Henderson, 89074 702.269.7600	Diploma and certificate programs	IT, network administration, business administrator specialist, allied health, medical assistant, medical administrative assisting, massage therapy	\$9,000-\$13,000	200	Dave Fritz	77 percent
5.	Culinary Institute of Las Vegas 2350 Corporate Circle, Henderson, 89074 702.992.8500	Associate's and bachelor's degrees, diploma programs	Art of cooking, baking and pastry, culinary arts, culinary management	\$372 per credit hour	139	Suzanne Noel	Varies
6.	DeVry University 2490 Paseo Verde Parkway, Henderson, 89074 702.933.9700	Bachelor's and associate's degrees	Accounting, Business Information Systems, Finance, Health Services, Hospitality Management, Human Resources Management, Marketing, Security Management, Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship, Technical Management, Criminal Justice	\$440 per credit hour	200	Felicia Ballard	92 percent
7.	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical 4475 England Ave., Suite 217, Las Vegas, 89191 702.643.0762	Associate, bachelor's and master's degrees; certificate programs	Professional aeronautical, technical management, logistics, aeronautical science, aviation maintenance management, safety	\$184 per undergraduate credit hour; \$307 per graduate credit hour	340	Julie Williamson	N/A
8.	Heritage College 3315 Spring Mountain Road, Las Vegas, 89102 702.368.2338	Diploma and degree programs	Computer business systems, massage therapy, medical assistant, paralegal, pharmacy tech, medical coding and billing, and criminal justice	DND	DND	Becky Anderson	DND
9.	High-Tech Institute 2320 S. Rancho Drive, Las Vegas, 89102 702.385.6700	Associate of science degree, diploma programs	Allied health, surgical tech, medical assistant, pharmacy tech, medical building and coding	Varies	480	Amy Tu	DND
10.	Intl. Academy of Design and Technology 2495 Village View Drive, Henderson, 89074 702.990.0150	Associate and bachelor's degrees	Fashion design, interior design, graphic design and visual communications	DND	450	David Cortinas	N/A
11.	ITT Technical Institute 168 N. Gibson Road, Henderson, 89014 702.558.5404	Associate and bachelor's degrees	Computer/electronics engineering technology, computer drafting and design, computer network systems, web development, multimedia, software applications and programming, technical project management, electronic commerce, information systems security	\$386 per credit hour	670	Don Nemmer	DND
12.	Las Vegas College 170 N. Stephanie St., Henderson, 89014 702.567-1920	Associate degrees in business administration and criminal justice	Criminal justice, business administration, legal, computer skills training, massage therapy	\$279 per credit hour	948	Admissions Office	82 percent
13.	Le Cordon Blue College of Culinary Arts Las Vegas 1451 Center Crossing Road, Las Vegas, 89144 702.365.7690	Associate of occupational science	Classical European techniques combined with cutting-edge technolgy and training, demonstration and practical application	\$41,000	800	John Hayet	Lifetime
14.	National University 2850 W. Horizon Ridge Parkway, Suite 301, Henderson, 89052 702.531.7800	Associate and bachelor's degrees and certificate programs	Criminal justice, public administration, organizational leadership, educations (elementary, secondary and special education), medical bill and coding	\$232-\$264 per credit hour	55	Tracy McMurry	N/A
15.	Nevada Career Institute 3025 E. Desert Inn Road, Suite A, Las Vegas, 89121 702.893.3300 3231 N. Decatur Blvd, Suite 250, Las Vegas, 89130 702.932.0515	Diploma programs	Massage therapy, medical assisting, medical education programs, dental assisting, medical specialist billing and coding	\$10,300-\$11,050	More than 300	Alyssa Adelman	80 percent
16.	Northwest Health Careers 7398 Smoke Ranch Road, Las Vegas, 89128 702.254.7577	Certificate programs	Dental assisting, medical assisting, massage therapy, colon therapy and medical insurance specialist	\$6,885-\$9,660	DND	Diane Pataluch	Lifetime
17.	Regis University 1401 N. Green Valley Parkway, Suite 100, Henderson, 89014 702.990.0375 10750 W. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 170, Las Vegas, 89144 702.932.1090	Bachelor's and master's degrees	Business administration with specialization including management, human resources, finance, accounting and marketing; liberal arts including philosophy, English, psychology and religious studies; education including specialization in language, communication, adult learning and special education; certificate programs in leadership, high-performance management and Catholic studies	\$295-\$475 per credit hour	260	Dr. Keith Evans	DND
18.	TechSkills 1050 E. Flamingo Road, Suite R-180, Las Vegas, 89119 702.836.9900	Field certification	Core IT skills, database design/administration, IT engineering, software development, network design/engineering, office applications, Internet/web design, medical coding associate training, medical transcription, medical office administration	Starts at \$1,795 per course	200	Michael Smith	Varies
19.	University of Phoenix 7455 W. Washington St., Suite 301 Las Vegas, 89128 7777 Eastgate Road, Suite 100, Henderson, 89014 702.638.7868	Bachelor of science, master of arts, master of business administration, certificate programs	Information technology, human services management, business/administration, criminal justice administration, education, organizational management, computer information systems, human resources management, E-business, technology management	\$310 per undergraduate credit hour; \$355 per graduate credit hour	3,841	Lauri Rockwood	N/A
20.	Sierra Nevada College 5812 S. Pecos Road, Suite B, Las Vegas, 89120 702.434.6599	Graduate degree programs and master's	Elementary, secondary and special education, recertification	\$300 per credit hour	60	Nadine Nielson	DND
21.	Touro University-Nevada 874 American Pacific Drive, Henderson, 89014 702.777.8687	Master's, doctorate and bachelor's degrees	Medical health care, occupational therapy, human services and education through Judaic studies	\$315 per credit hour	300	Dr. Mitchell Forman	N/A
22.	University of Southern Nevada 11 Sunset Way, Henderson, 89014 702.990.4433	Pharm. D and MBA degrees	Health care specializing in pharmacy and business administration	\$525-\$575 per credit hour	393	Dr. Harry Rosenberg	DND
23.	Keller Graduate School of Management of DeVry University 2490 Paseo Verde Parkway, Henderson, 89074 702.933.9700	Master's degrees	Accounting, E-Commerce, Finance, General Management, Health Services, Hospitality Management, Human Resources, Information Security, Information Systems Management, International Business, Marketing, Public Administration, Security Management, Project Management, Network and Communications Management	\$520 per credit hour	DND	Felicia Ballard	N/A
24.	Nevada State College 1125 Nevada State Drive, Henderson, 89015 702.992.2000	Bachelor's degrees	Nursing, teacher preparation, biology, business, English, history, mathematics, psychology, visual media, integrated studies, environmental science, law enforcement and communications	\$78.50 per credit	DND	Jennifer Tubwell	N/A
25.	Nova Southeastern University 8945 W. Russell Road, Las Vegas, 89148 702.942.3450	Bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees, doctorates and certificate programs	Elementary, secondary and special education, business, criminal justice, health science and computer science	Starting at \$273 per credit hour	1,000	David Guerin	N/A

CCSN brass eye future successes

Institution ranks as one of the fastest growing in country

By Allen Grant, Special Publications Writer

Not long ago, Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN) struggled through limited enrollment, a revolving door at the president's office and even student government scandals.

Today, the college ranks among the nation's fastest growing higher education institution with nearly 36,000 students. It continues to make strides in administrative stability.

"We've been the fastest growing community college over the last five years," said Dr. Richard Carpenter, the college's president whose contract was recently extended through 2008. "The swinging door culture of leadership led to instability. The (executive) team is now recruited, hired and in place. I'm excited about what we will be able to do."

One of the team's goals, according to Carpenter, is to "have better policies, procedures and systems" in place across the board.

"(Previous) administrations have had to reinvent the wheel, so we don't want to keep losing momentum," he said. "The culture of CCSN is changing. It's becoming a more tranquil environment to work in. It all starts with the faculty. We are investing heavily into ongoing professional development of our faculty and staff."

A public two-year college, CCSN offers more than 100 programs for higher education including multiple medical industry fields along with various business, criminal justice, hotel/motel and restaurant management, real estate and

Continued Next Page

Higher Education



The Community College of Southern Nevada's Charleston campus consists of about 80 acres and provides students with more than 800,000 square feet of classroom, faculty and office space.

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Smaller class sizes is a big selling point for the Community College of Southern Nevada. School statistics show that the average class size ranges from 20 to 22 students during the past five years.



A full service bakery and restaurant at the Cheyenne campus offers culinary arts students hands-on training.

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psychology programs. Some programs have even garnered national and international acclaim including the school's hotel and casino management, food and beverage, culinary arts and tourism.

CCSN also features several two-year associate degree programs preparing students for careers in graphic arts and animation, computer science, international business and nursing.

An accredited college by the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities, CCSN offers university transfer programs to the University of Nevada Las Vegas, University of Nevada Reno and others.

Enrollment receives jumpstart

Founded in 1971, the institution operated with temporary facilities in downtown Las Vegas for 194 students. By fall 1972, enrollment totaled a little less than 2,000 students.

As both enrollment and faculty began

to grow, Cheyenne Campus phases one through three were completed by the early 1980s. Enrollment topped 10,000 students and the college opened its Henderson Campus. In 1988, the institution completed the Claude I. Howard Health Sciences Center as part of the new Charleston Campus.

CCSN had 17,118 students by 1993 before growing to more than 32,000 by fall 2000. It now employs nearly 500 full-time and more than 1,000 part-time faculty members. In addition, the institution has about 660 full-time

administrative and staff personnel.

Today, CCSN is a comprehensive, multi-campus education institution within the University and Community College System of Nevada. Each branch campus is a separate, college-owned facility and includes classrooms, labs, faculty and administrative offices, student parking and security facilities. Besides the three major campuses, CCSN provides instruction at four high-tech centers, nearly 20 high school extension centers, 22 metropolitan extension sites, 14 rural extension sites, four prison sites and Nellis Air Force Base.

An 80-acre site located in North Las Vegas, the Cheyenne Campus stretches more than 500,000 square feet after its 100,000-square-foot addition in 1995. The facility offers student computer labs, a full-service bakery and restaurant for its culinary arts programs, and a casino gaming training center.

Designed to offer educational and cultural opportunities to residents of

Henderson, Boulder City and southern portions of Paradise Valley, the 75-acre Henderson Campus includes more than 200,000 square feet of space featuring classrooms, a computer super-lab center, science facilities and faculty office space.

Located in northwest Las Vegas, the 80-acre Charleston Campus offers more than 300,000 square feet of classroom, faculty and office space. It also includes modern classrooms, science labs, an on-site dental clinic, a UMC Quick Care Medical Clinic, and a Family Medicine residency program of the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Carpenter said students value CCSN because of its affordability, scheduling flexibility and campus location.

"We have the lowest cost of higher education in the state. Location is important for students," he said. "They work and need to balance their job, children and classes."

Another reason for the college's popularity is its smaller class sizes. School statistics show the average class size ranging from 20 to 22 students during the last five years.

CCSN garners international attention

After the tragedies of 9/11, the international student population nationwide began to decline, according to CCSN school officials. However, immune to the decline, CCSN increased its post 9/11 international studies program. With students representing more than 60 countries, the institution educated 720 international students in 2005 – up from just 444 in 2001.

"Our international student body growth has been exciting," said Carpenter. "We're up nearly 100 percent (during that period). We're defying the trend at CCSN."

Anneli Adams, director of the school's international center, said students choose CCSN because of the faculty. "We have the best faculty and they really take pride in the students," said Adams, who joined CCSN in 2001.

CCSN has a growing number of minorities on campus, officials said. Enrollment figures report ethnic minorities account for 46 percent of last year's student body.

"We have almost half of the entire state's population of minority students attend our school," Carpenter said. "In a few years, there

won't be a majority on campus. Several times on surveys, diversity is one of the things (students) list when asked about why they attend CCSN."

The average age of students at CCSN is also increasing, said Carpenter. "We now have several thousand (students) over 40 years old," he said. "That's a trend the entire nation is seeing with people going back to school."

To handle its diversity growth, CCSN recently became the first institution to hire a director of diversity – Debra Lopez. In addition, college officials attend local business functions with several chambers of commerce including the Latin, Urban and Asian to keep abreast of social and economic happenings.

"We should be reflective of our community, so we work hard at (diversity)," said Carpenter. "We have a history of actively recruiting abroad. Word of mouth has helped us. Word is getting out that we have a one-stop center for international students and that CCSN is less intimidating than other schools."

Officials: More opportunity to grow

CCSN's recent expansions include construction of several modern buildings and laboratories including an 80,000-square-foot state-of-the-art health sciences building serving several medical programs for nursing and physical therapy. The Charleston Campus facility opened in fall 2005.

Future growth plans feature more additions, according to school officials.



CCSN offers classes in automotive technology. A new \$20 million facility was recently approved by the state legislature.

The state legislature recently approved funding for two new projects including a 75,000-square-foot, \$25 million classroom/library facility for the Charleston Campus. Cheyenne Campus development plans also call for a \$20 million automotive technology facility.

Carpenter said the school is also "looking at preliminary planning for a fourth major campus in the northwest quadrant. We have a growing need in that area. Students value location and with the growth out there, we are looking into adding another campus."

With limited classroom space and a growing enrollment, CCSN has also expanded into Internet-based courses. "We're limited on physical space, so the Internet is one way to go for us. We are trying to find more ways to address the needs of our students," said Carpenter. The trend is becoming the wave of the future at institutions around the nation, officials said. Carpenter said CCSN had about 12,000 students taking online courses last year – up from 2,000 students only five years ago.

Last year, more than 25,000 CCSN students tried to schedule online courses but were shut out because of a limited number of online programs offered.

"The demand is amazing and we are trying to accommodate everyone," Carpenter said. "We are targeting the next 36 months to have nine complete online academic programs."

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USN fills the prescription

Henderson school helps with shortage of pharmacists

By Danielle Birkin
Contributing writer

According to the Rockville, Md.-based American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education, there are about 8,000 vacant pharmacist positions nationally in retail drug stores, hospitals, clinics and other industry sectors.

The University of Southern Nevada (USN) is helping to address that shortfall.

Incorporated in Henderson in 1999 by Dr. Harry Rosenberg as the Nevada College of Pharmacy, USN is a private, independent, non-profit institution that offers a doctor of pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.), the only facility of its kind in the state to do so. Dr. Renee Coffman, dean of the College of Pharmacy at USN, said Nevada seemed a likely site to open the facility.

"As Harry and I surveyed the landscape, we recognized that this population was growing and would continue to do so," Coffman said, citing the steady influx of new residents to Southern Nevada, coupled with the increase in seniors relocating to the state. "One of the things that happens when you get older is you use more medication and medication use has become an alternative to hospital stays. Pharmacy schools did not anticipate that need. For the last five years, they have not been graduating enough pharmacists. There was no pharmacy school in Southern Nevada, so we decided to take on the challenge of starting a pharmacy school here."

Classes at the College of Pharmacy commenced in 2001 with 36 students, Coffman said. Last year there were 1,500 candidates vying for 140 slots in the three-year program, which delivers content differently than the traditional four-year curriculum.

"We recognized at the onset that today's students have different needs. A more focused program that could be completed in three years, instead of four, would be an advantage," Coffman said. The program is not accelerated or abbreviated, simply structured differently, with a block system of study, and limited summer and vacation holidays.

"This results in economic savings for students, who are only paying three years of tuition instead of four," she said. "It also gives them an extra year of earning potential. The program has been popular with students."

This includes Sergio Fernandez, a 21-year resident of Las Vegas, who is in his second year at the College of Pharmacy where flat tuition rates run \$30,852 per year.

"I had a good friend who had graduated from USN and when I ran into him at a coffee place, he told me he had gone through the school and was doing great. It motivated me to look into it and determine if it was something I wanted to do. I decided to go for it," said Fernandez, who also has a bachelor's degree in cell and molecular biology from UNLV and planned to pursue a career in health care. "I was keeping an eye out for something that would interest me — something dynamic and revolutionary — and pharmacy is that. Many people see pharmacists behind the counter counting pills and filling vials; but it takes so much

"We recognized at the onset that today's students have different needs. A more focused program that could be completed in three years, instead of four, would be an advantage."

Dr. Renee Coffman,
Dean of the College
of Pharmacy at USN

knowledge and extensive training. It's up to us to serve the patients as a final safety net."

Fernandez went on to laud the college's fast-track curriculum format.

"What's unique about this university is they have what is called a block system, a revolutionary way of education," he said. "Every two weeks you only cover one subject matter, unlike UNLV, where I was taking four or five classes at a time and allocating time to study for all those classes. When you study one subject, master it and then go on to the next, you retain it longer than you would if you were bombarded. It's a great way to do it — you go through material very fast but you're not cutting any corners. You have very little time off, but you have to give in exchange for having that extra year of earning potential."

The College of Pharmacy has been so successful, the program is expanding

outside Southern Nevada into Utah. Groundbreaking took place last November for a facility in South Jordan — located on the outskirts of Salt Lake City. It is initially expected to serve about 50 students upon completion next fall; although, that figure could likely increase over time as it did in Southern Nevada.

Rosenberg said Utah is a prime location for another College of Pharmacy. The state currently has more than 2.2 million residents, yet only one pharmacy program that graduates an average of 40 to 45 students annually. Many USN students hail from Utah — along with California, Nevada and Arizona, which further supported the decision to expand into the Wasatch Front.

"We plan to operate the Utah pharmacy program as an extension of our current Nevada program," Rosenberg said in a statement. "We will hire additional faculty and staff for the Utah program; but our curriculum will remain the same, and the faculty and administration will function as one College of Pharmacy. We are excited about this endeavor; but most important, we are excited about having a positive impact on health care in our region and producing knowledgeable, dedicated and professional pharmacists to help residents live long, healthy lives."

As for the future of USN's College of Pharmacy, Coffman said plans are in the works to launch the state's first public drug information center, which will eventually expand into a poison control center. USN is



Dr. Renee Coffman

Dr. Coffman is the dean of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Southern Nevada.

also in the process of getting accredited to offer continuing education for pharmacists, and is ramping up its lab space and equipment to conduct medical research.

But USN's fundamental goal and original mission is already being realized, as Coffman indicated that the pharmacy program is helping curb the scarcity of qualified pharmacists in the U.S.

"I used to look at the Sunday ads for pharmacists and there were columns of them," she said. "As we began graduating students, we saw those numbers go down; so, anecdotally, I would say we have had an impact on the pharmacy shortage."

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Taking on a new challenge

It's never too late to switch gears, train for a new occupation

By Deborah Roush, Contributing Writer

Nels Boyer, 36, had worked in the hospitality industry for 15 years—as a bellman and valet—earning good wages at some of the city's top hotels. With encouragement from his golfing buddies—all successful businessmen involved in real estate, he quit to pursue his own passion for the industry.

Boyer, like many others working at careers that perhaps are not their first choice, as well as high school graduates who cannot see themselves taking two or four more years of college classes, are turning to Las Vegas schools to learn a trade—from real estate to cooking and cosmetology.

Making real estate a reality

For the state-required pre-licensing instruction Boyer needed, he chose MoneyWorld School of Real Estate, which has two schools in the valley and offers a six-week program requiring 90 classroom hours. He finished his classes in late January.

Michael Beckner heads MoneyWorld's program and said the school provides a foundation that includes the principles, practices, and laws and ethics of real estate.

"We have classes about dealing with real estate concepts, entering into contractual relationships, the agency relationship, appraisal and valuation of real estate, financing, government laws and regulations ... titles and vesting ... and the Nevada real estate laws that are state specific," he said.

Switching Careers

After passing the required classes, students must pass a pre-license test administered by the state of Nevada. Beckner said real estate is one of the few professions that does not require an advanced degree and has unlimited income potential.

"It can be an immensely gratifying career. There is so much activity in Las Vegas and with as much job creation as we have, our market is strong," Beckner said. "Of course, it also requires a lot of work. When I'm explaining that to my students, I say the only place that success comes before work is in the dictionary," he added.

Boyer, who plans to become a commercial real estate agent, selected MoneyWorld because "nine out of 10 of the people I asked went through this program," he said. With more than a dozen real estate schools in Las Vegas, where to turn to spend the average \$450 it costs for schooling can be daunting. Beckner suggests making certain the school is approved by the State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry Real Estate Division, and asking about the qualifications of the instructors.

"We have six instructors who are college graduates and four of them have their law degrees. Real estate, in many respects, is baby law school and so that's a big (asset)," Beckner said.

While Beckner said some students turn to real estate after high school graduation, for most it is a second or third career. "The average age of our students is from 30 to 45 and their education level is all over the place," he said.

MoneyWorld School of Real Estate can be reached at (702) 869-3203. A list of state approved real estate schools is available on the Internet by accessing www.red.state.nv.us.

What's cookin'?

For those who want to cook up a culinary career, as a chef perhaps; there's no better place to find a job than Las Vegas, the experts say. Yet, to get a job in a hotel or restaurant, you'll need training; and it doesn't typically come from your standard four-year college.

One place culinary hopefuls turn is Las Vegas' Creative Cooking School, which partners with the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and offers a 600-hour professional chef program.

"Las Vegas is the number one destination location in the U.S. and the need for food is at the utmost. In the last 10 years, this city has transformed from buffet to the top chefs in the country — Emeril, Wolfgang Puck — it's a whole new ballgame," said Katherine Margales, the school's founder and president.



A student at the High-Tech Institute gets hands-on training as a dental assistant. Below, students are taught the art of flower arranging at the Las Vegas School of Floral Design.



a job opportunity for one of her students.

As the owner and an instructor of Las Vegas School of Floral Design, Walker helps those who dream of working as a floral designer. Walker has operated the school for six years and graduates about 180 students annually.

"This is the wedding capital of the world and the floral industry is in all the hotels. I have 70 to 80 employers who call me on a regular basis and want to hire a student," she said. Walker warns that everybody isn't made out to be a florist. "You're messing with dirt, foam, water, leaves and foliage. Things are not always perfect. It is a lot of labor and you stand on your feet all day. People think, oh, flowers ... fun! But it's a lot of hard work," she warned.

In order to receive a certificate from the school, which is certified by the Nevada Commission on Post Secondary Education, students must complete 80 hours of classwork and pass five tests. In those classes, students are taught how to make corsages and wedding bouquets, rose arrangements, and floral design for funerals and weddings. "There are about 70 different styles of design taught," Walker said. "This class prepares them for an entry level job in a flower shop."

"It's a very intense class that is 99 percent hands-on."

While applicants do not need a certificate from a floral design school to qualify for a job at a florist, it's something employers look for, Walker said.

"If you get a job without one, you're very lucky," she added.

In addition to the entry level program, Las Vegas School of Floral Design offers advanced classes including wedding design, designing for special events and advanced floral design.

"In order to take an advance class, you have to have skills in taping and wiring, and previous experience. Those classes only include one or two students," she said.

Walker said her school has an open-door policy. "Any graduate may come back after they have graduated to brush up on a skill, as long as I have flowers available," she said.

Enrollment in Las Vegas School of Floral Design costs \$850 plus an \$85 registration fee. A \$140 book is also required for the class. For more information, call Walker at (702) 252-3227.

The make up of a new career

Becoming a professional cosmetologist isn't easy. Students have to learn everything there is to know about hair, skin and nails, then pass exams to become licensed by the Nevada State Board of Cosmetology.

Lori Grieco, director of career services for The Academy of Hair Design, founded 30 years ago in Las Vegas, said

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"In that respect, there's a great need for trained professionals; but it doesn't work to be a cook and then work your way up anymore. They want you to be trained," she added.

At Creative Cooking School, students take hands-on classes taught by the school's 15 chefs who are all graduates of top professional chef programs. Students learn everything from sanitation and technique to knife cuts, sautéing and grilling in an accelerated, 600-hour professional chef program that requires students to be at school from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. three days a week.

"You know what you're going to do from day one through the last day of class. If you have a commitment to become a professional chef, we can make that happen if you follow our program," Margales said.

Margales said she has had students from all walks of life. "Two of our students were former attorneys. There was a man who owns his own sign company and a woman who was an executive secretary. They are people who have a real passion for cooking and know that Las Vegas is the hot spot for that these days," she said.

Margales said the school's \$15,000 tuition covers all costs, from books and supplies to equipment and uniforms. Graduates receive a certificate of completion from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. After graduation, the school helps place students in quality jobs, Margales said. "I'm most proud of the jobs and externships our students have (obtained)," she added.

Margales said the school accepts 10 students each September. The next program begins March 15 and students graduate the last week in July.

For more information, interested applicants can call (702) 562-3900. Other culinary schools in the area include LeCordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Summerlin and The Art Institute of Las Vegas in Henderson.

A flowery future

Mary Walker has someone calling her every day with

"When I left the sheriff job, people thought I was crazy. When I left the FBI, people thought I was crazy. When I left auto parts, my dad was not happy; although, he reconciled it later and is proud of me. I questioned myself sometimes."

Dr. Dale Carrison, Director,
Emergency Medicine Department, University Medical Center in Las Vegas

UMC director jumps from FBI investigator to new life in the ER

By Deborah Roush, Contributing Writer

When it comes to going back to school and beginning a new career, Dr. Dale Carrison, 66, a Navy brat turned sheriff turned FBI investigator turned director of the emergency medicine department at the University Medical Center in Las Vegas, has done it. Lots.

"If you hate what you do, look at your life and figure out how you can do something else," he suggested.

He encourages those who are not working at their dream job to consider a new occupation rather than "suffering in silence." That is just what Carrison himself did — many times — before he decided, at the age of 43, to attend school to become a physician.

Carrison grew up in the Navy town of Pensacola, Florida, so after high school he followed the path of many others — joining the Naval Reserves and attending Florida State University. After flunking his first attempt at school, however, in 1958 he enlisted in the Navy. Once there, he took and passed the test for the U.S. Naval Academy, although a serious shoulder injury soon afterward redirected his plans to work for the Navy and he moved to California where his parents had relocated.

In California, he married and worked for a local newspaper until his wife's father, a reserve deputy sheriff, got Carrison interested in law enforcement. He went to school again, this time attending the police academy.

"I took the test and became an Orange County deputy sheriff," he said. "I really liked that job and did it for eight years, working fugitives for three of them."

That experience, however, piqued the interest of the FBI, which lured him to their agency where he worked for five years. "I had divorced and remarried and wanted to get out of Dodge, so in 1971 I went to the FBI Academy in Washington D.C. then worked in the FBI offices in Portland and Los Angeles," Carrison explained.

"The FBI is a great organization and if my child—or grandchildren now since my kids are too old—are kidnapped that's who I want to go after them. But coming from the sheriff's office, where I made my own decisions and directed my own investigations, the FBI was extraordinarily bureaucratic," he said. So, when the opportunity came to get into business for himself in the auto parts industry, Carrison jumped ship, opening seven NAPA auto parts stores in Southern California with his father within three years.

Although lucrative, Carrison found

he didn't like the auto parts industry either. "It's all about making money and that's not who I am. There's no customer loyalty and you have to count nickels and dimes to make a business," he said.

Carrison went back to college — this time studying basic science. "I always wanted to take biological sciences and I loved it. All the kids were going to school to become doctors or dentists and I got the bug. I thought, I wish I wasn't so old or I would like to do this," he said.

Then it dawned on him — he wasn't too old at all.

After obtaining a master's degree in biology he graduated from an osteopathic college in Pomona, Calif., then completed a rotating internship in Michigan and an emergency medicine residency in Chicago.

When he finished his residency, he was 51 years old. "At one time I was the oldest emergency medicine resident in the U.S.," he said.

Age isn't slowing Carrison down any. Since taking the job as a physician at UMC, he has become the director of emergency medicine.

That's not enough for the self-proclaimed hyperactive, dyslexic kid with attention deficit disorder. "I've always had a lot of energy," he chuckled. Today he is the medical director for the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, and he still puts his law enforcement experience to use as the chair of the Nevada Homeland Security Commission.

Carrison loves his jobs, so there are no plans to seek something new anytime soon. Good news for his family, who has supported him all along, he said. "My wife put up with me. I had to make time with my children quality," said the dad to four daughters.

Did people ever question his decisions to leave one well paying profession for the unknown? "Absolutely. When I left the sheriff job, people thought I was crazy. When I left the FBI, people thought I was crazy. When I left auto parts, my dad was not happy; although, he reconciled it later and is proud of me. I questioned myself sometimes," he said.

It's not for everyone, he admitted. "Some people need security and aren't comfortable with change, but you don't have to do one thing your (entire) life. In our parent's generation people did the same thing for 30 years, but you don't have to do that anymore," he added.

"There are people who go to medical school right out of college and others who have dealt with a lot of life before they get there. Who has more experience? I think there's a place for both," he said.

"So, if you finish one thing and want to do something else, go do it," he added.

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her school and its 15 instructors can make it happen. "We'll teach them everything they need to pass the board and get started in a new career."

"This program tends to bring on people who knew from a young age they wanted to do hair. They did their friends' hair for prom or cut their Barbie's hair as a kid," Grieco said. "It draws those right out of high school, but also those who want a second or third career," she added.

Grieco said there is a steady demand for licensed cosmetologists in Las Vegas. "Placement is easy ... there are so many salons, day spas and nail spas here," she said.

In addition to becoming a cosmetologist, the school offers classes for those seeking a more restrictive license. "There are manicuring licenses for those who do manicures and pedicures only, and an esthetics license for those who want to do facials, make-up or microderm abrasions."

At The Academy of Hair Design, enrollment prices are based on program selection, Grieco said. The Academy of Hair Design can be reached at (702) 878-1185.

For a list of cosmetology local schools licensed by The Nevada State Board of Cosmetology, call them at (702) 486-6542 or access www.cosmetology.nv.us.

Moving to a medical profession

In Las Vegas, one of the areas where there is a shortage of skilled workers is the medical field. Las Vegas High-Tech Institute trains students almost exclusively in that area in an 18-month program.



Professional chef Anthony Sinsay shares his expertise with students at Las Vegas' Creative Cooking School.

"Not all students are cut out for the four-year degree, whether because of family commitments or financial obligations. Some people need to get out there right away with a craft or skill," said Mary Ann Altman, the school's campus president.

Las Vegas High-Tech's director of education, William Hale, is proud of the school's job placement record for its graduates. "Our students get placed in jobs and have successful careers," he said.

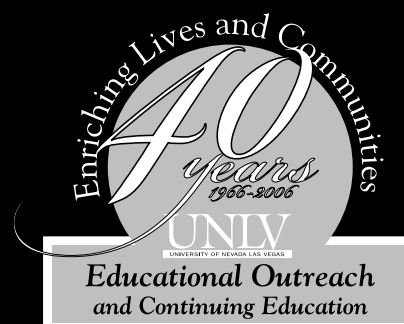
For more information about Las Vegas High-Tech Institute, including tuition costs and financial aid, they can be reached at (866) 385-6700 or at www.hightechinstitute.edu.

Making the choice

Embarking on a new career—no matter your age—can be scary. Nobody knows that better than Bloyer, who has left the comfort of a longtime job in the hotel industry for real estate and is not afraid of what the future holds. The hardest part is already over, he said, making the decision to leave his old job behind.

"I left a dead-end job for a career that will grow with me," he said. "I like the freedom, being my own boss and no nine-to-five grind."

It began with a building inspection course in 1966.



That was followed by real estate courses, then dental seminars. Leadership and management programs appealing to a broad audience of business and community leaders soon followed. These evolved into management specialty programs serving business, government and nonprofits including human resources, training, public relations, payroll and others.

Exponential growth in the legal community in the nineties led to a UNLV-based and now nation-wide training program for paralegals. A host of issue-specific conferences, institutes and seminars have also come and gone to help Nevada business, government, health and education leaders respond to societal needs and keep pace with emerging technology. And now, in 2006, UNLV Educational Outreach celebrates 40 years of Enriching Lives and Communities.

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UNLV's Division of Educational Outreach celebrates 40 Years

Innovative program enables community to benefit from the university's offerings

By Deborah Roush, Contributing writer

When most of us think of classes, seminars or programs offered by the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV) for those who aren't the typical part- or full-time college student, the words "continuing education" spring to mind.

At UNLV, however, that name no longer applies.

It's now the Division of Educational Outreach, with a growing number of offerings under its umbrella. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the evolving program, and the university is taking the opportunity to celebrate its progress and let

the community know what it is all about.

Outreach Program

A \$30 million operation with a staff of 35, Educational Outreach manages for-credit and non-credit classes for youth to seniors and oversees the university's summer-term classes. It also manages the Cannon Survey Center, a formal survey and research unit serving local government and business. As of last year, the division also began overseeing the university's distance-learning opportunities.

How it helps

"The university belongs to the entire community, not just the 18- to 23-year-old traditional student. It's important for any university to service the entire community that supports it," said Dick Benoit, a spokesman for UNLV's Community Outreach Division.

"As an outreach arm of the university, we specialize in being able to identify and respond to transient, yet extremely important, societal issues," he said, naming examples like drought or the arrival of Africanized bees in the Valley.

"We have the ability to draw on the expertise of university faculty and experts in the community to put together educational programs about these issues for the community," Benoit said. "This applies to social issues as well—mental health care, language training for immigrant groups and other social changes," he added.

Equally important are the individual people who are able to change their lives with help from the Educational Outreach Division, Benoit said. They include a single parent from an abusive marriage who graduated from the school's paralegal program. "Because of the quality of that program and our excellent record of job placement, we were quickly able to get her on her feet to earn a good living in Las Vegas," Benoit said proudly.

Then, too, there was the federal law clerk who had already earned undergraduate and graduate degrees. "Although she was well compensated and comfortable, it just wasn't the job for her. We helped her achieve her dreams for personal and professional happiness through our Certificate in Public Relations Program. She has now transitioned into a government public relations professional," Benoit said.

The university will be sharing more testimonials like these in its own publications as it celebrates the 40th anniversary of Educational Outreach throughout the year, Benoit said. For example, in addition to providing information on the 300 courses available at the university, the Educational Outreach spring catalog features stories from several students and how the division has helped them change their lives for the better.

Perhaps no one is more excited about the anniversary of the program than

"Through Distance Education, we offer more than 400 individual courses to meet traditional on-campus program requirements each semester."

Dick Benoit,
UNLV spokesman

Benoit, who has worked in the department for two decades and sees its importance to the community every day.

"The anniversary is a very positive way to take stock of where we have come from and where we're headed as an organization," he said.

The centerpiece of the school's observance of

the anniversary will come on March 23 when the school hosts an open house, Benoit said. Former students and professors will be invited, and the school will welcome back the three previous deans of the department, he added. There will be refreshments and entertainment. Since last year alone the division's non-credit programs served about 10,000 students in 1,000 classes; it could be a big crowd.

Looking ahead

As much as Benoit enjoys looking back on successes, he is just as excited to talk about the future.

Three years ago, the Division of Educational Outreach moved into its own building across from the Thomas and Mack Center on the corners of Swenson Street and Tropicana Avenue into what had been the Paradise Elementary School. Benoit said there are plans to update the exterior of the building to make it more modern and appealing to passers by, since it is located at the gateway to Las Vegas for visitors from McCarran International Airport.

"It's my understanding that an exterior upgrade of the campus made it onto a long-term state construction-planning list shortly after we moved in," he said.

In the program arena, one area where Benoit expects growth is service to the area's senior citizens. Currently, through its Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, a group of about 300 retired and semi-retired seniors meet at the school's Paradise Road campus in weekly study groups.

"As baby boomers move into retirement, I see more programs to serve them and their lifelong learning desires," he said.

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The fast-growing Division Of Educational Outreach at UNLV is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. A future vision of some university officials calls for a new building for the division across from the Thomas & Mack Center on Tropicana Avenue.

From Previous Page

Benoit also expects an increasing number of courses targeted to those who have lost jobs due to changes in a global economy and outsourcing. "That will include career change and lifestyle programs," he said.

One thing on the more immediate horizon is a partnership with the Educational Outreach Division, UNLV's Center for Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences (CAOS) and Rancho High School to encourage careers in space science by planning summer space camps for middle school and high school youth.

In the Office of Distance Education, where students currently complete their B.A. in Social Science, an M.S. in

Hotel Administration or a Ph.D. in Nurse Education online, the Educational Outreach Division plans to add a new degree program every year, Benoit said.

"Through Distance Education, we offer more than 400 individual courses to meet traditional on-campus program requirements each semester," he added.

Benoit said the Cannon Survey Center, also under the direction of Educational Outreach, plans continued growth. Last year the center contracted for 40 projects bringing in almost \$150,000 to the university.

Benoit said this is an exciting time to work in the Educational Outreach Division.

"When I came to work here, we were just getting into workforce training for those who did computer work for business and industry. None of the coordinators in continuing education had a computer on their desk. As I recall, there were only three electric typewriters in the whole office. Now, we feature 18 pages of computer classes in our catalog, and approximately 70 percent of the classes offered on those pages target individuals whose primary responsibilities are not technology.

"It's been quite a revolution," he said.

It will be interesting, he added, to see what the next 40 years bring.

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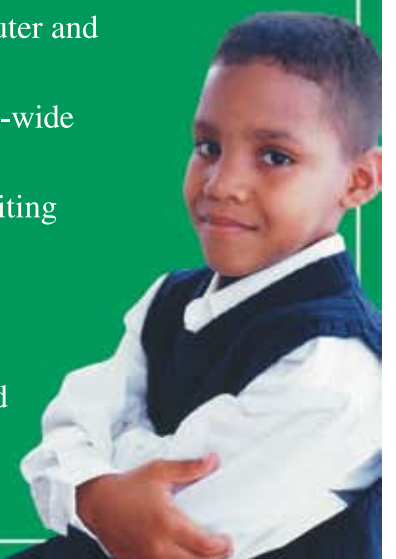
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