

**DRAFT MINUTES
STATE OF NEVADA
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

NEVADA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE AND IN PERSON

The public may observe this meeting and provide public comment during the public comment section on Zoom or in person at:

Live Meeting:

DETR – Job Connect/EmployNV
Conference Room
3405 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89169

Zoom Meeting:

Topic: CPE Quarterly Commission Meeting
Time: May 7, 2025, 9:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nvdetr-org.zoom.us/j/87341686690?pwd=P1ViHeTUw8tUc9Dabpbdc0nRbnqWQZ.1>

Meeting ID: 873 4168 6690

Passcode: 430467

Dial by your location:

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Staff Present During Video Conference

Kelly Wuest, CPE Administrator
Maricris Wu, CPE Education Specialist
Susan Beckett, CPE Compliance Investigator I

Commissioners Present During Video Conference Meeting

Dr. Thomas Kenny, Chair
Sharon Frederick, Vice Chair
Dr. Randall Kirner
Jon Ponder
Jessica Todtman
Peter Mikhail
Kara Abe
Sherida Devine

Members of the Public, Educational Institutions, and Other Agencies Present

Greg Ott, Nevada Attorney General Office, Deputy Attorney General
Greg Cloward, Nevada Attorney General Office, Deputy Attorney General
Rene Fairless, Doral College
Dakotah Johnson, Doral College
Marion Knight, Galen College of Nursing

Dr Landon Horton, Galen College of Nursing
Matt Sheehan, Galen College of Nursing
Arlo Thompson, Las Vegas Bartending School
Wesley Pettis, Path Ways School of Masonry
Claudia Araiza, Southern States University
Dr. Patrick Nusso, Southwest University of Naprapathic Medicine
Dr. Brian Trott, Haven University
Dr. Joshua Smith, Haven University
Dr. Pavel Solin, NCLab
Danielle Pablos, Touro University
Beverly Givens, Refuge for Women
Ryan Kairalla
Paul Schwarz, Path Ways School of Masonry
Kristi Bordelon
Steve Sebree, Unity Dental Assisting
Almas Khemseth, Las Vegas Bartending School
Cristina Guerra Romero
Patricia Johnson, Las Vegas Bartending School
Samantha Hyatt
Weldon Havins

STATE OF NEVADA
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES
May 7, 2025 – 9:00 AM PDT

Call to Order

The meeting was held via Video Conference ZOOM and In Person, DETR – Job Connect Conference Room, 3405 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89169. The meeting was called to order by Chair Commissioner Thomas Kenny at approximately 9:03 AM.

Public Comment Phone Option Instructions

For members of the public please note the options for attending this zoom meeting are via web and phone:

Meeting ID: 873 4168 6690

Passcode: 430467

833 548 0276 US Toll-free

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Public Comments

Susan Beckett confirmed no one was physically present in the conference room, in the Zoom meeting, or phone for public comment.

Written Comments

Susan Beckett confirmed that no written comments were received.

Confirmation of Posting

Susan Beckett, for the record, Commission on Postsecondary Education. Yes, proper notice was provided for this meeting pursuant to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.020 and confirmation of posting was received. We are in compliance with the open meeting law.

Roll Call

- Commissioner Chair Kenny – Present
- Commissioner Vice-Chair Frederick – Present
- Commissioner Ponder – Present
- Commissioner Kirner – Present
- Commissioner Todtman – Present
- Commissioner Abe – Present
- Commissioner Mikhail – Present
- Commissioner Devine-Present

Administrator Kelly Wuest took roll by verbal and video. Confirmation of a quorum.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – Motion to approve adoption of Agenda for May 7, 2025.

Second: Commissioner Mikhail.

Discussion: None.

Results: Unanimous; the agenda is adopted.

Approval of February 5, 2025, Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Kenny– Motion to approve the minutes for the February 5, 2025, meeting.

Second: Commissioner Todtman

Discussion: None.

Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Wuest gave the Administrator's Report as submitted, with an update to the quarterly report. The number of student enrollments is 10,765 with 21 institutions unreported and quarter 4 of 2024 now stands at 8,314 new student enrollments. Discussion occurred over SB 78 amendment to leave CPE with DETR and SB 343 that will create an exemption for individuals holding a current Nevada occupational license from the CPE background requirements. This change will produce cost savings for institutions and eliminate the duplication of the background process to work at an institution. Commissioner Todtman asked about actions or changes related to the executive order related to accreditation. Discussion of Nevada regulation concerning accreditation is linked to the Department of Education recognition occurred and how changes at the federal level would require Nevada to revise statutes. With the elimination of the San Francisco office both the agencies contact, and schools contacts was eliminated with no reassignment provided.

Applicants for Consideration of Full-Term Licensure

Doral College

Testified: Rene Fairless, Nevada Director requested an extension due to the timing of the institution's first semester occurring in January.

Discussion: None

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – The provisional license for Doral College be extended for an additional 6 months.

Second: Commissioner Ponder.

Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

Galen College of Nursing

Testified: Marion Knight, Associate Director of Regulatory Affairs, Dr Landon Horton, Dean at the Las Vegas Campus and Matt Sheehan, Regional Director of Operations were present to answer any questions and thanked staff for being professional and very supportive. The institution has both the CPE audit and accrediting site visit in March.

Discussion: Commissioner Mikhail recused himself since he has a school that competes with Galen.

Motion: Commissioner Todtman – Galen College of Nursing be granted a full-term license

Second: Commissioner Frederick.

Results: Commissioner Mikhail abstained; motion carries.

Las Vegas Bartending School

Testified: Arlo Thompson indicated that the provisional audit in March resulted in some deficiencies in the enrollment process and paperwork. They are working with CPE to streamline and have more accurate record keeping.

Discussion: None.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – The Provisional license for Las Vegas Bartending School will be extended for an additional 9 months.

Second: Commissioner Mikhail.

Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

Path Ways School of Masonry

Testified: Wesley Pettis, Academic Director, indicated the audit went well and the institution worked with CPE staff to ensure all records were where it needed to be.

Discussion: Commissioner Ponder stated that he was abstaining from voting since his organization works directly with the institution.

Motion: Commissioner Frederick

Second: Commissioner Kirner.

Results: Commissioner Ponder abstained; motion carries.

Unity Dental Assisting

Testified: Steve Sebree, CEO of Unity Dental Assisting, requested the provision license be extended due to a lack in enrollment.

Discussion: None.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – The provisional license for Unity Dental Assisting be extended for an additional 9 months.
Second: Commissioner Mikhail.
Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

Southern States University

Testified: Claudia Araiza Chancellor of Southern States University stated the institution is working to finalize the accreditation application with the Higher Learning Commission. She is planning on submitting it by the end of the month. It was delayed because the accrediting body required the audited financials for 2024 to accept the application.

Discussion: Commissioner Kirner asked if we would be voting until the accreditation comes through or can we vote on a provisional basis. Administrator Wuest stated that it was presented on a provisional basis until they are through the process. Since they were previously accredited and have two transfer agreements that would transfer up to 75% of the courses, the institution meets the requirements to be allowed to continue to operate as unaccredited but under provisional status. Commissioner Kirner asked about the impact of students graduating from an unaccredited university and if the institution later becomes accredited would it change the status for students who are currently graduating. Administrator Wuest answered that the institutions current student base is international where the accreditation status does not hold the same weight as in the U.S. If a student graduates during the time period where accreditation is not in effect, the student's degree would be considered from an unaccredited institution.

Commissioner Mikhail stated that the later accreditation can speak to the quality of the institution since the standard needed to be present through the accreditation process. Commissioner Mikhail stated Southern States University had 18 months to obtain new accreditation from the time that they were recognized by the Department of Education. He asked if they pursued other accreditation during the time ACICS lost its recognition and why they still haven't achieved it? SSU applied originally with the Western Association of Schools and College, but the application did not proceed due to alignment with the WASC's main focus. Ms. Araiza stated the HLC has not provided a set time frame for determination, but the next step is a self-study. The Commission discussed the history of the one-year provisional license and the statute that exists to allow the process to occur. Ms. Araiza discussed the licensing with BPPE and the history of the Las Vegas campus.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – The provisional license for Southern States University be extended for an additional 12 months with the following requirements: Setting an enrollment cap at no greater than 20 students at any given time, requiring an adjustment of the surety bond to 100% liability at \$172,000, requiring the institution to report student enrollments, drops, and completions to CPE on a quarterly basis, requiring the institution to immediately report any changes in BPPE licensing status and requiring the institution to provide CPE with notices from the Higher Learning Commission upon receipt.

Second: Commissioner Kirner
Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

Applicants for Consideration of Initial Provisional Licensure

Southwest University of Naprapathic Medicine

Testified: Dr. Patrick Nusso provided an update of the legislative process to have the regulations in place for naprapaths in Nevada. Due to the timing, the University had to reapply because they were unable to meet the 6-month timeframe for the contingencies.

Discussion: None.

Motion: Commissioner Frederick – That a 12-month provisional license be granted to Southwest University of Naprapathic Medicine to offer the Doctor of Naprapathic Medicine and the Masters of Science in Anti-Inflammatory Nutrition contingent upon staffing and surety in the

amount of \$974,100 to be reduced to \$146,000 upon submission of a program participation agreement that includes the Nevada campus.

Second: Commissioner Ponder.

Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

Applicants for Consideration of Added Program

Haven University

Testified: Dr. Brian Trott, Dean of Administration and President, Dr. Joshua Smith presented on the reaffirmation status with the accrediting body issuance for 10 years. Dr. Trott provided a history of the institution in Nevada offering MBA and BSBA programs and that after meeting with local churches and the religious groups determined to expand the offering to include the Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry and religion degrees. Dr. Smith discussed the history of California Graduate School of Theology now known as Haven University community-based focus on education and offering religious programs.

Discussion: Commission Kirner asked about the current enrollment and expectations for the new programs. Haven University currently has over 20 students enrolled in the two offerings. For the new programs, the initial projections are for 10-15 enrollments starting with the fall semester. Commission Ponder asks about how the University recruits students. Dr. Smith indicated they have been visiting local churches about the university offerings and the institutions' primary way of developing new students is through word of mouth. They plan to communicate through the churches and local population. Based on previous discussions, local religious leaders will likely recommend 30 students which translates into 10-15 actual enrollments. Dr. Trott thanked Ms. Wu for assisting them with the process.

Motion: Commissioner Ponder - Haven University be granted approval to offer the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Religion, Master of Arts in Religion, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry contingent upon personnel approval and additional surety bond coverage in the amount of \$99,000.

Second: Commissioner Kirner.

Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

NCLab

Testified: Dr. Pavel Solin testified about the additional programs are based on the programs currently approved and requested due to interest to have shorter programs which are subsets of the larger comprehensive programs.

Discussion: None.

Motion: Commissioner Todtman – NCLab is granted approval to add the new programs in Data Analysis Mini Credential and SQL Mini-Credential

Second: Commissioner Frederick.

Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

Order to Refund

Career College of Northern Nevada

Testified: Administrator Wuest explained this is the last list of student indemnification claims. The period for claims closed on 2/8/25 at the one-year mark. Altogether the full amount of claims were \$527,083.86. It would have been much more substantial if the 25 veterans had not received restoration of entitlement. The lesson learned from my perspective is that an institution can't become complacent and not update programs with the needs of the market. When a program no longer addresses the industry well it is very hard to create transfer agreements. CPE went to every institution to see if transfer was possible but was unable to develop any viable options for students.

Discussion: Commissioner Kenny thanked Commission Kirner for the work done to increase the student indemnification account to safeguard the Commission in the future.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – That we approve the last two indemnification claims as outlined by the Administrator.
Second: Commissioner Frederick.
Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

Application for Continued Employment

Closed session to consider the character, misconduct, competence or health of a person-action will be taken in open session.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny made a motion to go into closed session
Second: Commissioner Todtman
Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

Close meeting to the public at 10:04 AM

Touro University (Danielle Pablos)

Open Meeting for vote at 10:13 AM

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – Ms. Pablos be permitted to remain employed at Touro University and that as long as Ms. Pablos provided the same information as she did this time around on any future form 40C for her background, if she moves to a different institution that she may continue to remain employed and does not need to revisit this review process.
Second: Commissioner Devine
Results: Unanimous; motion carries.

Public Comments

Susan Beckett confirmed no one was physically present, in the Zoom meeting, or on the phone for public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Kenny. Time: 10:18 AM PDT.