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HILTON

Stay Ahead, Stay in  
School (Summer  
School-That Is)



KEITH O. HILTON

It is that time of year again when most students are just glad the regular academic school year is over. Few are eager to go straight to summer school.

It continues to be a fact that most high school and college students will attend summer school at least once or twice during their scholastic or collegiate careers. And most of these students are exceptionally bright.

This writer speaks first hand about the advantages of going to summer school.

I regularly attended summer school- from my "ancient" high school days through doctoral studies. In fact, I recall going to summer school each summer between the ninth and twelfth grades.

A few of those classes were needed to stay on course. A few were college prep focused.

Going to summer school used to carry a negative stigma with it. It was thought that only those who failed classes during the regular school year went. However, first of all, failing a subject does not constitute a lack of ability; rather it indicates that some adjustments are needed in order to succeed in a particular area.

While many students attend summer school to catch up, make up or improve their class performance, more students are using the summer period to get

ahead of the game.

On the high school level, students can take courses in a shorter time span. For some, four weeks of intensive Swahili or French Literature beats having to sit through months of the course during the semester or year.

Some high school graduating seniors use the summer as a time to take a few first year college courses at the local community college, with the intention of applying those credits to the school they will be attending in the fall.

College students, likewise, are using summer sessions to establish advance standing at their respective colleges. As a matter of fact, many colleges also have special graduation ceremonies during the summer.

A little recognized advantage that could become more pronounced later is the way prospective employers look at how a student utilizes his or her summer periods.

Summer school represents activeness and motivation in the opinion of some recruiters and also admissions officers. The point is that taking full advantage of summer offerings, at the very least, keeps students on an academic straight course.

Finally, some students have correctly discovered that because of the short length of each

summer session, it is possible to also work and vacation during the remainder of the summer.

The near bottom line is, Stay in School, Summer School, That Is.

**HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION** is designed to dialogue with college and world readers.

Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study. Let's talk. (909) 899-0650.

# HIGHER EDUCATION FALLS THROUGH THE CRACKS IN THE 1993-95 BUDGET

By Shelley Berkley  
Regents' Legislative  
Liaison Chair

"I hate to see University and Community College System fall through the cracks," one lawmaker quipped as the higher education budgets were closed at desperately anemic finding levels.

The budget proposed for higher education by the governor and being approved now by lawmakers is inadequate to do the job of properly educating the thousands of Nevadans who cry out for quality academic and occupational training programs at our institutions of higher learning.

As we rapidly approach the 21st Century certain realities must be faced. The University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN) now serves approximately 78,000 students. By the year 2000 our student population could exceed 100,000. National estimates indicate that 80% of the available jobs in the next century will require some postsecondary education. We will be educating more and more students who will require skills that can only be acquired at institutions of higher learning.

The economic growth, development and diversification of

our state depends upon a qualified workforce trained at postsecondary educational institutions.

Some 86% of the students attending UNLV have graduated from Nevada high schools. Almost 100% of the students attending CCSN are locals. We are in the business of educating and training Nevadans to become productive members of our community and the future leaders of business, industry, and government in our state.

What is the response of our states elected officials to the demonstrated need for quality education?

Higher education's share of the state general fund has been cut from 20% to 17.6% which means we cannot hire the hundreds of faculty members needed to educate our students. By 1995, UCCSN will be short 472 full-time faculty and staff positions.

Our student/faculty ratios are among the highest in the United States. Community College of Southern Nevada, for example, will be teaching 41% more students than it has been budgeted for. Classrooms are packed, faculty overextended, and many courses will not be offered because we simply do not have enough professors to teach the number of students demanding an education.

More than 50% of all classes offered at our community colleges will be taught by part-time instructors. This number far

exceeds the national average of 30%.

Many older buildings are in desperate need of repair. "When it rains it pours" has significant meaning for those students who attend classes in buildings that leak profusely during inclement weather. We are also opening new buildings without adequate funds to keep them operational.

Nevada enjoys the dubious honor of ranking dead last in financial support for needy students.

Student fees and tuition have risen 45% for undergrads and 62% for graduate students since 1990. We are pricing the very students that need our services the most out of the market by denying them the opportunity to get a college education at an affordable price.

Nevada ranks 47th in the nation in percentage of citizens with a college degree, yet we claim to be interested in economic diversification and in providing a quality education for our citizens.

UCCSN is aware of the economic crisis that faces our state. Last biennium, in response to

the crisis, we returned \$38 million to the general fund. UCCSN is also aware of the education crisis that faces our state. The very future of Nevada is dependent on an educated and well-trained workforce.

Our mission is to provide a quality education for our citizens, and we need adequate funding to carry out our mission.

If you agree with me that education is important for our children, our grandchildren, and the future of our state, I urge you to contact legislators and demand that if additional revenue is found—or if revenue exceeds current projections—that the additional money be allocated to higher education.

Further, urge your legislator to restore UCCSN's percentage of the budget to 20%.

It is time for the state to do more for the higher education needs of its citizens. It is time for state leaders to "step up to the plate" and make a strong statement about the priority of higher education by making more funding available.

**Nevadans deserve nothing less!**

## OPENINGS AVAILABLE AT THE LAS VEGAS ACADEMY

Students interested in attending the Las Vegas Academy of International Studies and Performing Arts for the 1993-94 school year still may apply for a few remaining openings.

The Las Vegas Academy is a new secondary magnet school that will open this August at the former Las Vegas High School. In addition to core subjects of English, math, science and social studies, students may choose to pursue international studies or performing arts, including dance, drama or music. Five foreign languages will be offered: Spanish, French, Russian, Japanese and German.

Enrollment information may be obtained by calling the academy at 799-8692.

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