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Attention: Nevada Press Corps

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For immediate release

Bipartisan coalition launches campaign to pass Ballot Question 1 which will provide accountability, oversight, and transparency to Nevada's System of Higher Education and the Board of Regents.

Today, Nevadans for Higher Quality Education launched its campaign to pass Question 1, the ballot question asking Nevada voters to remove the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) and Board of Regents from the state constitution. The campaign consists of a bi-partisan and diverse coalition of community leaders with backgrounds in higher education, workforce training, business, labor, and government.

In response to the launch of the campaign, Advisory Board member and former President of Western Nevada College (WNC), Dr. Carol Lucey, said:

"Nevada has benefitted from being one of the fastest-growing states in the nation; however, as the former President of Western Nevada College, I have witnessed how Nevada has struggled to adapt its governance and infrastructure to best meet the needs of an expanding and diversifying Western state. YES on 1 will modernize the governance structure overseeing higher education to reflect the differing missions of our colleges and universities and the evolving needs of our students."

Former State Senator and Advisory Board member Warren Hardy (R) commented:

"As a member of the State Senate, I always felt my primary responsibility was to ensure transparency and accountability between the government and the taxpayers and constituents I was elected to serve. In my years as a legislator, I came to realize that one area of our government was systemically structured in a way that made those objectives very difficult to achieve. Our system of higher education is structured in a

way that makes essential checks and balances nearly impossible. This creates conditions which are ripe for misuse. The taxpayers of Nevada deserve a system that both fosters public confidence and focuses on the true mission of higher education in our state”.

Council for a Better Nevada member, Tom Kaplan, also added:

"The \$29 million-dollar budget of NSHE is larger than any other state's and is larger than most of our colleges budgets. By comparison, states like Virginia have five times the number of colleges and universities, yet one-third of the employees in their system-wide office. We deserve better."

About Ballot Question 1

Ballot Question 1 will provide accountability, oversight, and transparency to Nevada's system of Higher Education (NSHE) and the Board of Regents by removing them from the State Constitution. The ballot question, formerly known as AJR5, passed with bipartisan support in the State Legislature twice (2017 and 2019). If approved by voters this November, all of the powers, duties, and elections of the Board of Regents are preserved in NRS 396.020 and 396.040. There is no fiscal note attached to the ballot question.

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