

## **Rand Research Study of 2001**

Commissioned by the then University and Community College System of Nevada, UCCCSN  
Jane Nichols Chancellor

Retrospective Analysis by Dr. Mark A. Curtis, President Great Basin College, March 30, 2015

### **Introduction:**

As Great Basin College continues to plan for growth involving the development and delivery of several additional baccalaureate degrees the so-called "Rand Study" has been mentioned to me by Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Crystal Abba and Regent Jason Geddes. Having now acquired and read the 54 page study I was struck by how many of the options identified in the study have been considered and adopted in some form by the Board of Regent, save one important one; more on that below.

Because the writers of the Rand Study wished to provide system administration and the Board of Regents options to consider, formal recommendations were not made. However, the options listed in the study were meant to help address the unprecedented challenges of providing increased access and quality in the face of very scarce resources.

### **GBC Related Options Found in the Study:**

- Recognize the Community Colleges as a Central Mechanism for Meeting Access Goals
- Establish multiple four-year colleges
- Further Revise the Funding Formula
- Create A More Transparent Fee Setting Process
- Expand Need-Based Financial Aid Program
- Multiple Boards

### **Retrospective Analysis of the Above Options and Related Actions:**

1. The Community Colleges remain an open access point to postsecondary education
2. Only one four year college has been established in NSHE, but GBC has been allowed to serve a portion of this role in rural Nevada
3. NSHE has a revised funding formula
4. The fee setting process is very transparent will lots of public/student input
5. The Board of Regents have steadily increased need-based financial aid resources at all NSHE institutions and promoted such programs to the State Legislature
6. Recently Institutional Advisory Councils were established at the state's four community colleges

### **GBC's Vision for Growth, a Piece of the Puzzle:**

The establishment of four to six four year colleges would give Nevada citizens the kind of access enjoyed by citizens of many other states. Yet, the Great Recession and ongoing financial pressures found at the state level have prevented progress on this particular option. Without abandoning its community college mission GBC can be a growing four year institution; a fourth type of institution if-you-will fitting squarely within current Board policy, requiring no name change, yet giving place bound Nevadans an option to earn a bachelor's degree in a variety of desired disciplines.