



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

90th Session, 2022-2023

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND IMPLEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DEGREE PROGRAMMING IN THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Resolution Number: 115

Authored By: Parliamentarian Kermanshahi, Senators Brown and Fiorillo

Sponsored By: 2022-2023 Student Government Assembly

Whereas, the University of Nevada’s School of Public Health was “established by the Board of Regents on September 1, 2004, and seeks to grow the numbers of faculty, graduate students, MPH programs in each of the core areas of public health, and doctoral degrees in selected areas while engaging in cutting-edge research and community service.”;

Whereas, the School of Public Health has maintained a mission to “develop, disseminate and apply knowledge to protect and promote the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.”;

Whereas, the School of Public Health has identified a public health degree from the University of Nevada as preparing an individual for a “rewarding career working to achieve health equity and eliminate health disparities that impact our communities.”;

Whereas, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s National EMS Scope of Practice Model has identified paramedics as “allied health professionals whose primary focus is to provide advanced emergency medical care for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system possess[ing] the complex knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and transportation.”;

Whereas, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified paramedics as a profession to grow 7% from 2021 to 2031;

Whereas, a 2022 American Ambulance Association study of employee turnover found that 39% of emergency medical technician and 55% of paramedic positions went unfilled because of a lack of qualified candidates;

Whereas, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services has identified community paramedicine as a feasible solution to achieving health equity and eliminating health disparities in the state citing, “reduced emergency room usage, reduced hospital readmissions, reduced emergency transports, increased access to primary care services, and improvements in health outcomes, especially chronic conditions.”;

Whereas, currently the State of Nevada has only four (4) degree programs to attain an associate’s degree in paramedic medicine, paramedicine, prehospital emergency medicine, and emergency medical services at the College of Southern Nevada, Western Nevada College, Truckee Meadows Community College, and Great Basin College respectively;

Whereas, the University of Arizona, a peer institution of the University of Nevada, has a bachelor’s degree in emergency medical services with additional training in core competencies such as critical care, community paramedicine, special operations, physiology, chemistry, biology, leadership, health care systems, and communications that also “provides individuals and paramedics the background necessary to become leaders in their field.”;

Whereas, the University of New Mexico, a peer institution of Nevada, provides a four-year undergraduate program that places emphasis on both the science and the humanity of prehospital medicine that “teach[es] and train[s] paramedic leaders to be better prepared to handle the realities of a new era in prehospital medicine.”;

Whereas, in an article authored by Michael Schulz, a paramedic educator and program director at Truckee Meadows Community College for Public Safety and Emergency Medical Services, Schulz cites professional ownership of industry to include evidence-based and scholarly research, an elevation of industry standards and health outcomes, and international opportunities in foreign countries like the United Kingdom,

Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa which all require an intensive four-year, undergraduate degree program;

Whereas, the Center for Integrated Health and Community Education, an educational subsidiary of REMSA Health, provides educational programming for paramedic students in conjunction with the University of Nevada, Reno's Cooperative Extension Program without a degree program;

Whereas, Jennifer Walters, manager of the Center for Integrated Health and Community Education, has cited an interest in their program in conjunction with the University of Nevada, Reno to create a bachelor's degree in public health with an emphasis in prehospital emergency medicine;

Whereas, Michael Schulz, Director of Public Safety at Truckee Meadows Community College has actively advocated for the creation of a bachelor's degree program in emergency medical services;

Whereas, students surveyed at both Truckee Meadows Community College and the Center for Integrated Health and Community Education overwhelmingly and unanimously support the creation of degree programs;

Whereas, students and graduates of the University of Nevada, Reno have made up a significant percentage of over 20% enrollment in emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, and paramedic programming at both Truckee Meadows Community College and the Center for Integrated Health and Community Education;

Whereas, in a randomized control trial conducted by Parliamentarian Kermanshahi, Senator Brown, and Fiorillo sample size of 198 students, 11.1% intended on pursuing some form of emergency medical or prehospital medical training to begin their careers as first responders, and 11.6% intended on pursuing some form of emergency medical or prehospital medical training to begin their careers as physicians, physician's assistants, or nurses for a total of 22.7% interested in recognition or establishment of emergency medical service training;

Whereas, in the strategic plan passed in 2016 for the Associated Students of the University of Nevada *No Walls 2025: A Student Vision for the University of Nevada, Reno*, the Association then identified initiatives to "break down the educated wall," as "create[ing] programs that educate our community and students at the

same time, give[s] students opportunities to develop healthy skills, hobbies, and habits, [and] encourage[s] student entrepreneurship through grants and creating opportunities for students to innovate in the business world”;

Whereas, a paramedic, emergency medical service, or prehospital emergency medical services program at the University of Nevada would constitute the identification and creation of programs that would educate and benefit both students and the community whilst developing an invaluable skill that will serve the public health demands of the State of Nevada, and encourage the advancement of the emergency medical services industry towards innovation, development, and solidification of practices that will lead to higher patient outcomes;

Be it resolved that, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada supports the School of Public Health’s continued coordination with the Center for Integrated Health and Community Education and Truckee Meadows Community College to create a four-year undergraduate bachelor’s degree program in public health with an emphasis in prehospital emergency medicine.

Be it further resolved that, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada supports the recognition of credits for emergency medical service classes and coursework as transferrable credits toward a bachelor’s degree at institutions within the Nevada System of High Education.

Be it further resolved that, a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- Provost Jeff Thompson, University of Nevada-Reno
- Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education
- Members of the Board of Regents and Chancellor Dale Erquiaga of the Nevada System of Higher Education
- Dean Muge Akpinar-Elci, School of Public Health
- Assistant Dean Zachary Behl, School of Public Health
- President Brian Sandoval, University of Nevada-Reno
- Director Michael Schulz, Truckee Meadows Community College
- Manager Jennifer Walters, Center for Integrated Health and Community Education

- Paul J. Hauptman, Dean of the School of Medicine
- Debera Thomas, Dean of the School of Nursing

Adopted in Senate on March 29th, 2023

Attest:

Wyatt Layland, Senate Secretary

Andrew Thompson, Speaker of the Senate