



**ONE FOUR THE RECORD, ONE FOUR THE SCENE, ONE FOUR THE CLASS, OF TWENTY-FOURTEEN!**

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### Tears Amid Pomp, Circumstance at NDOC Graduation Ceremonies

Friends and family have never traveled for such a happy reason to see their loved one as they did for graduation ceremonies held during the months of May, June and August throughout the state's adult correctional facilities. Traditionally, graduation talk focuses on the future, but at seven recent ceremonies the emphasis was on hope, commitment and better lives ahead. That is because ceremonies were held at Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) prisons, correctional centers and conservation camps.

During academic year 2014, a record-breaking 1,488 High School Equivalency (HSE) certificates, High School Diplomas (HSD), Associate of Arts (AA) degrees, Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees, and/or industry recognized vocational certificates were awarded to NDOC inmates from school districts including: Carson City School District, Clark County School District (CCSD), Elko County School District (ECSD), Humboldt County School District (HCSD), Lincoln County School District (LCSD), Nye County School District (NCSD), Pershing County School District (PCSD) and White Pine County School District (WPCSD) and colleges including: Western Nevada College, College of Southern Nevada and Adams State College.

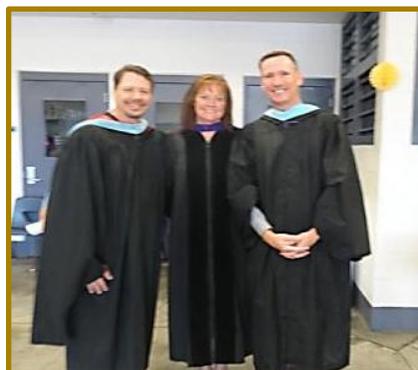
Donning traditional caps and gowns, inmates marched in one by one with pride as "Pomp and Circumstance" guided them to their seats. School Districts' Principals officially opened the ceremonies by welcoming friends and family, thanking the wardens, associate wardens and correctional officers for their commitment and continued support, and introducing their facility, distinguished guests including school administrators, state department directors and elected officials.



WSSC GRADUATES MARCH IN THE PROCESSIONAL



LCC'S COLOR GUARD LEADS COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE.



PICTURED (LEFT TO RIGHT) CCSD SUPERINTENDENT PAT SKORKOWSKY, CCSD ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT TAMMY MALICH AND CCSD PRINCIPAL ROBERT T. TARTER

Keynote speakers delivered inspiring and engaging speeches, urging the graduates to set high expectations for themselves, reminding them: "No one can be truly successful in life just trying to be mediocre. In order to succeed, you have to expect more of yourself. You have to decide what you think you can achieve and then take it one step further. And through all of this, you must keep your eyes on your ultimate goal."



STATE ASSEMBLYMAN HARVEY MUNFORD AND SDCC WARDEN BRIAN WILLIAMS

"REACH HIGH, FOR STARS LIE HIDDEN IN YOUR SOUL. DREAM DEEP, FOR EVERY DREAM PRECEDES THE GOAL." - MOTHER TERESA

THERE IS NO MEDICINE LIKE HOPE, NO INCENTIVE SO GREAT, NO TONIC SO POWERFUL AS EXPECTATION OF SOMETHING TOMORROW." — ORISON S. MARDEN

PICTURED (LEFT TO RIGHT) NDE EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL JEFF WALES, PCSD SUPERINTENDENT DAN W. FOX, LCC WARDEN ROBERT LEGRAND AND DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL DAVE POLLARD

PICTURED (FAR RIGHT) (LEFT TO RIGHT) STATE ASSEMBLYMAN HARVEY MUNFORD, CCSD DIRECTOR DR. ROBERT HENRY AND PRINCIPAL REID KIMOTO

## Tears Amid Pomp, Circumstance at NDOC Graduation Ceremonies con't.

At NDOC's southern facilities, CCSD Trustee, Patrice Tew, shared a personal moment between her and her daughter with the graduates, she recalled: When her daughter was young, she worked from home most of the time. So one day when she was called into work, she changed her clothes and was getting ready for work, her four year old daughter asked her "Where are you going?" She told her daughter, "I am going to prison." Her daughter who did not know what a prison was and hoping she could come along, asked, "Is it free to get in?" Ms. Tew then responded to her daughter, "No honey, it costs everything you have."



PICTURED ABOVE (LEFT TO RIGHT) CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (CCSD) BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS: PATRICE TEW AND DR. LINDA E. YOUNG, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT TAMMY MALICH, SUPERINTENDENT PAT SKORKOWSKY, DIRECTOR DR. ROBERT HENRY AND PRINCIPAL MARGARET FROBY

In closing, speakers commended the graduates for continuing with their education and reiterated that statistics show that inmates who receive an education while incarcerated, do better in society and have less chances of coming back to prison.

Class of 2014 student speakers thanked the faculty for believing in them and for not giving up on them. They encouraged their fellow classmates to continue on with their education. Proclaiming, "This diploma is not where it ends; it is where great things begin."

Cheers and applause filled the ceremonies, as graduates walked up to the podium to receive diplomas and shake hands with dignitaries.

In the south distinguished guests included: CCSD Board of Trustees', Dr. Linda E. Young and Patrice Tew, CCSD Superintendent, Pat Skorkowsky, CCSD Assistant Superintendent, Tammy Malich, CCSD Director, Dr. Robert Henry, NDOC Deputy Director Brian Connnett and State Assemblyman Harvey Munford.



FELLOW GRADUATES LOOK ON AS DIPLOMAS ARE AWARDED TO THEIR CLASSMATES.



The northern portion of the state was represented by NDOC Director James G. Cox, NDOC Deputy Director E.K. McDaniel, Carson City School District Superintendent Richard Stokes, Carson Adult Education Director Ferd Mariani, Department of Education Programs Professional Jeff Wales and PCSD Superintendent Dan W. Fox.



*Please join us in  
attending the NCEC  
2015  
Commencement  
Exercises*

## Tears Amid Pomp, Circumstance at NDOC Graduation Ceremonies con't.

The 2014 ceremonies provided an opportunity for inmates to be proud of what they have accomplished and to know that the State of Nevada has not given up on them. Crime is often the result of a lack of education and opportunity, which is why it is rampant in areas with high rates of poverty and low graduation rates and levels of school attendance. By giving inmates the opportunity to advance their education, and therefore their possibilities for gainful employment after their release, education opportunities are offering inmates a way to overcome the obstacles that may have led to the crimes they committed in the first place.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Graduation ceremony originated from a statute issued in 1432 at Oxford University. According to this statute, every bachelor graduating from the institution was expected to deliver a sermon in Latin as part of his academic exercise, thus to show his scholarly attainment as well as describe his feelings over his passing from the establishment.



**Raise Your Hand**



**Give Yourself a Pat on the Back for Job Well Done**

Because the earliest universities in this country were founded primarily to educate ministers, the British practice of a Baccalaureate service continued.

Today, the sermon doesn't have to be done by a religious person; it can be done by the dean or principal of the school, an invited guest (often famous or well-respected) or by the school valedictorian.



**Turn Your Tassels!**



**PCSD DIRECTOR/ PRINCIPAL DAVE POLLARD IS EAGER TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THE GRADUATES**



## Spotlight on Nevada's Department of Education

Each week, Governor Sandoval recognizes exceptional achievements, successful programs and initiatives, and a standard of excellence in the work that is being done every day in State government in Nevada. In the spotlight this week is the Nevada Department of Education's ongoing effort to provide critical high school equivalency and alternative education opportunities that help to reduce unemployment and enhance Nevada's workforce.

Beginning this year, the State of Nevada became the first in the nation to provide multiple options for High School Equivalency (HSE) assessments. These educational assessments are the basis for awarding thousands of Nevadans a state-issued High School Equivalency Certificate, which affords them a higher likelihood of securing employment. The assessments allow test-takers to demonstrate proficiency in the academic skills that are necessary not only for success on the job, but in postsecondary studies as well. There are nearly 300,000 adults in Nevada who currently lack a high school diploma or an equivalent. By offering multiple methods for obtaining a HSE Certificate, the Department of Education is expanding the pathway to professional success for thousands of Nevadans whose employment opportunities would otherwise be limited.

Nevada's expanded HSE offerings were recently showcased during the Inaugural Nevada Correctional Education Consortium (NCEC) graduation ceremony last month. The ceremony was the first of the 2014 academic year and was also the first ever to take place at the Carlin Conservation Camp in Elko County. During the ceremony, inmates received HSE Certificates after having completed programs that increased their career readiness skills and technical proficiencies. Studies show that inmates who complete these types of programs are less likely to recidivate than those who do not participate in educational programs, and every dollar spent on basic adult education within the criminal justice system yields a six dollar return on the investment.

The Governor is proud to recognize the success of the Nevada Department of Education's innovative expansion of high school equivalency opportunities and to shine the spotlight on the dedicated efforts of the Nevada Correctional Education Consortium in helping to make employment and professional success a reality for many Nevadans across the Silver State.

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Message from the Office of the Governor - 2014



BRIAN EDWARD SANDOVAL IS THE 29TH AND CURRENT GOVERNOR OF THE U.S. STATE OF NEVADA AND A MEMBER OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. SANDOVAL IS A FORMER JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA. IN JUNE 2010, SANDOVAL DEFEATED HIS GOP CHALLENGERS TO WIN THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION FOR THE 2010 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION.

**CONGRATULATIONS NDE AND THANK YOU FOR BECOMING AN ACTIVE AND VALUABLE PARTNER OF NCEC.**



Clark County School District - Official Site  
ccsd.net



PAT SKORKOWSKY CCSD  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

PAT SKORKOWSKY STARTED HIS CAREER IN AUGUST 1988 AS A FIRST-GRADE TEACHER IN THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT. HE HAS SERVED THE STUDENTS AND PARENTS IN CLARK COUNTY AS A TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR AND NOW, SUPERINTENDENT.

HE SERVED AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT THREE DIFFERENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, EISENBERG ES, KAHERE ES AND BRACKEN ES. PAT SERVED AS PRINCIPAL OF DORIS FRENCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, THURMAN WHITE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WAS SELECTED TO OPEN DEL WEBB MIDDLE SCHOOL AS THE PRINCIPAL.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, AN ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT AND, IN AUGUST OF 2012, THE DISTRICT'S DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT. DURING A MEETING ON MAY 21, 2013, THE CCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES SELECTED PAT SKORKOWSKY AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS. CCSD IS THE NATION'S FIFTH-LARGEST DISTRICT, WITH MORE THAN 311,000 STUDENTS AND 357 SCHOOLS.



Monday, June 9, 2014

## Superintendent attends uplifting graduation ceremonies

– By Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky

I recently had the opportunity to speak at two very special graduations: High Desert State Prison held a ceremony for both youth and adult graduates on June 4, and Virgin Valley High School held its commencement ceremony and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on June 5.

Trustees Dr. Linda E. Young and Patrice Tew joined me for ceremonies honoring graduates from High Desert State Prison's Youthful Offender Program and Adult Program.

In total, we awarded 57 high school diplomas, 92 high school equivalencies, and 16 vocational certifications to young people and adults. High Desert currently offers vocational programs for students interested in computer applications, air-conditioning and heating, automotive technology, construction, green technology, welding, and culinary arts.

It is wonderful that education is being used as a positive incentive for individuals in prison, even qualifying inmates to expedite their release dates. I was humbled to watch young people and adults utilize education to get their lives back on track.

During the ceremony, inmates played in the band for their peers, and culinary students served delicious meals to guests. After the ceremony, I had great conversations with graduates and their families. I know we are all very proud of these individuals for never giving up. They used education as a platform to make the right choices and turn their lives around.

The next day, I attended Virgin Valley High School's commencement ceremony to honor 148 graduates, and to celebrate the school's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Trustee Chris Garvey and I were thrilled to see that the entire community had come out in support of these students. The bleachers were packed!

During the ceremony, two of the school's valedictorians took part in a surprise dance performance. Students also paid tribute to one of their own who had recently passed away, saving a seat especially for her. Adorned with what would have been her cap and gown, her diploma sat on the chair and was a beautiful reminder of her accomplishments.

With the band and choir performing, it was a magical way for Virgin Valley High School students to end the school year and honor their school's history.

These were just two of the 17 graduations I am attending this season. Congratulations to all of our 14,500 graduates, their families and the CCSD staff members who helped our students walk across the stage. I am proud of all of you.

Stay tuned for next quarter's edition, as we discuss new goals, objectives and activities of the State of Nevada Correctional Education Consortium (NCEC).