

Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: November 21, 2024

DATE: November 12, 2024
TO: District Board of Health
FROM: Chad Kingsley, District Health Officer
ckingsley@nnph.org
SUBJECT: Approve the Education Affiliation Agreement between Northern Nevada Public Health and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Public Health.

SUMMARY

Northern Nevada Public Health and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Public Health, drafted and reviewed an Education Affiliation Agreement to establish a partnership between the two parties for mutual public health and academic advancements, allowing Northern Nevada Public Health to host practical learning experiences in public health for students from the university. This agenda item is for discussion and approval of the Education Affiliation Agreement between Northern Nevada Public Health and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Public Health.

Northern Nevada Public Health Strategic Priority supported by this item:

4. **Impactful Partnership:** Extend our impact by leveraging partnerships to make meaningful progress on health issues.

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

The Educational Affiliation Agreement serves to establish a formal partnership between Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), School of Public Health, to allow students from the university opportunities to gain practical learning experiences through the application of knowledge and skills with NNPH programs. The most direct impact with this agreement in place will cover the ability of NNPH to host interns and fellows from UNLV, School of Public Health, which enhances the collaboration between government health departments and academic institutions in terms of public health education, training, research, and service.

This partnership between the Northern Nevada Public Health and the University of Nevada, Reno, recognizes the linkage that exists between academia and public practice, and the shared benefits resulting from such a linkage. Establishing internship and fellowship opportunities between a university and a health department is vital for bridging academic learning with practical public health experience. Through these experiences, students gain firsthand exposure to real-world health challenges, enabling them to apply theoretical knowledge to community and public health settings.

The prompt for this partnership was due to UNLV receiving funding to initiate a Nevada Applied Epidemiology Fellowship program. This fellowship opportunity offers a one-year, full-time, post-graduate paid field placement program for 3 recent MPH graduates beginning in December 2024. The goal of this program is to help promising, but inexperienced epidemiologists gain necessary experience through placements at local health departments throughout Nevada. Fellows will be hired through the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a stipend of \$57,000 per year with health benefits included. Two fellowship positions will be hosted by Southern Nevada Health District, and one will be hosted at Northern Nevada Public Health.

This collaboration fosters a stronger public health workforce, fellows and future interns will be able to gain a deeper understanding of health systems and are more prepared to address real-world public health issues. Additionally, these opportunities can help retain talent within local health departments, strengthening community health efforts and addressing workforce shortages in public health.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

The Staff recommends the Board approve the Education Affiliation Agreement between Northern Nevada Public Health and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Public Health.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the Staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the Education Affiliation Agreement between Northern Nevada Public Health and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Public Health."

ATTACHMENTS

- Education Affiliation Agreement final draft