

Students training to become teachers



# STUDENTS TRAINING TO BECOME TEACHERS

## New program hopes to curb teacher shortage

The Silver State Education Foundation launched a program in North Las Vegas that supports local students who want to become CCSD teachers. (Las Vegas Review-Journal)



By **Katie Futterman** Las Vegas Review-Journal



October 16, 2024 - 4:49 pm

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Not only did Long encourage Fletcher to start taking school more content.

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teacher.

Fletcher is one of the 50 students at Canyon Springs High School who are part of the Homegrown Teacher Program. The program was launched by the Silver State Education Foundation and supported by \$258,000 grant from the city of North Las Vegas. It aims to address Nevada’s teacher shortage — a problem most acute in North Las Vegas — by supporting local students in their effort to become educators.

“The teacher shortage is one of the most-pressing challenges that we face, not just here in North Las Vegas, but across Nevada,” North Las Vegas Mayor Pamela Goynes-Brown told the crowd at the program’s official launch Wednesday morning. “The homegrown teacher program is more than just a solution to a problem. It’s an opportunity for our students to see a future for themselves in education and give back to the community that raised them.”

The Clark County School District started this year with [over 1,000 vacancies](#). The last time it filled all positions was 1994, according to Jeffrey Geihs, CEO of the Silver State Education Foundation and executive director of the Nevada Association of School Administrators.

## Homegrown

Speakers addressed the fact that the district often recruits from other places and other countries, which means the recruits often leave sooner. Supporters hope that a homegrown program will cultivate people who will stay in Clark County.

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“Students that were raised here, born here, grew up here, have a way of giving back through becoming educators right here in their own community. They already have their roots here. They have ties here,” Goynes-Brown told the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Quintria Jemison, 16, wants to be a teacher because she loves helping her two younger siblings.

“I like to teach them little things,” she said, adding that she often teaches them how to pronounce words they will hear in videos, and they get very excited.

“It’s nice to be able to have a bunch of motivation and people help with my journey,” said Jayla Knuckles, 17. She especially appreciates the ability to take classes at UNLV during high school. She plans to continue learning to be a teacher at UNLV after graduation.

As part of the program, Knuckles said she has learned about programs teachers use, as well as strategies and communication skills.

Region I Associate Superintendent Louis Markouzis, who also serves as chairman of the Silver State Educational Foundation, praised the students who were part of the program.

“Being a teacher was the best job I ever had,” Markouzis said. “Being a child of Greek immigrants, not knowing how to speak English as a child until I went to kindergarten, it was teachers that shaped my life.”

### Long-term substitutes

Many positions are filled by long-term substitutes who do not have the same content knowledge as licensed educators, Geihs said. At one school, Geihs said of the 18 science positions, only one was filled by a licensed science teacher. The rest were long-term substitutes who were only “a chapter ahead of the kids,” Geihs said. In other places, substitutes who do not speak Spanish are teaching Spanish courses, according to Geihs.

In one school, a professional magician works as a long-term substitute, according to North Las Vegas City Councilman Isaac Barron, who serves as an appointed CCSD trustee. Although Barron said the magician is a wonderful person, he said the school needs a licensed teacher.

“This represents a really good synergy between a city that understands what its priorities are, and an outside organization to make it all happen. So I’m really proud of this,” Barron said.

Contact Katie Futterman at [kfutterman@reviewjournal.com](mailto:kfutterman@reviewjournal.com).

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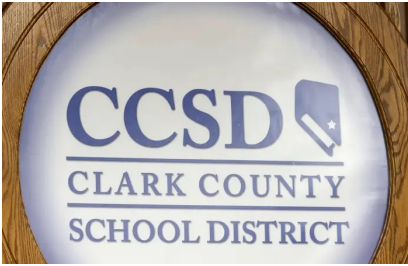
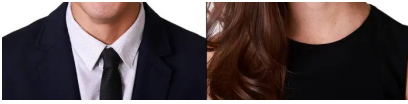
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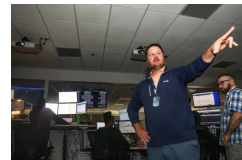
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By Katie Futterman / RJ October 18, 2024 - 1:42 pm

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### North Las Vegas principal wins state award

By Katie Futterman / RJ October 18, 2024 - 3:25 pm

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### 'A true icon in our community': Philanthropist Joyce Mack dies at 99

By Katie Futterman / RJ October 17, 2024 - 12:59 pm

Joyce Mack, a longtime philanthropist in Las Vegas, died at the age of 99 at her home in Newport Beach, Calif.

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### CCSD coach arrested, accused of sexual misconduct with student

By Akiya Dillon / RJ October 15, 2024 - 5:09 pm

A Clark County School District coach was arrested on suspicion of sexual misconduct, school police said.

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### 'A beautifully blessed day:' CCSD math teacher receives Nevada's top honor

By Estelle Atkinson / RJ October 14, 2024 - 4:38 pm

Mike Patterson, a math teacher at the Advanced Technologies Academy, was celebrated for being chosen as the state's teacher of the year during an assembly.

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### Half the seats on Nevada Board of Education up for grabs

By Katie Futterman / RJ October 14, 2024 - 10:16 am

Four candidates are running for two seats on the State Board of Education, which sets policy



standards and oversees Nevada's public education system.

## Pending lawsuit against CCSD could shed light on district's latest financial woes

By Katie Futterman / RJ October 11, 2024 - 6:00 am

An April lawsuit that alleges financial mismanagement in the Clark County School District's technology division could be key to understanding some of the district's recent financial woes.

## CCSD lowers potential budget deficit estimate

By Katie Futterman / RJ October 10, 2024 - 10:53 pm

The district clarified that the issue of the school budget adjustments was separate from a potential budget deficit and that no school budgets were affected by the potential central budget deficit.

## CCSD teacher beats out more than 900 others for \$100K prize

By Katie Futterman / RJ October 8, 2024 - 4:07 pm

Manufacturing teacher Alex Bechtler was greeted Tuesday with a red carpet and a \$100,000 check after winning a nationwide competition with more than 900 applicants.

## UNLV, UNR leadership worked closely amid conference realignment, letter states

By Mick Akers / RJ October 7, 2024 - 2:44 pm

A letter sent to Nevada System of Higher Education regents revealed there was some level of UNLV and UNR working together as the Mountain West Conference-Pac-12 realignment

occurred.



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