

BEFORE THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY  
STATE OF NEVADA

In Re:

Nevada Connections Academy Notice of  
Closure or Possible Board Reconstitution

**DECLARATION OF M [REDACTED] HIETT**

I, M [REDACTED] Hiett, hereby declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

1. I am a current student at Nevada Connections Academy's high school. I make this declaration in support of NCA relative to closure proceedings before the State Public Charter School Authority held on May 25, 26, and 27, 2017, and continued to an unspecified date in 2017.

2. The matters set forth in this declaration are based on my own personal knowledge. If called upon to testify, I am competent to testify to the matters set forth herein.

3. It breaks my heart to hear that Nevada Connections Academy may be closing. This school truly changed my life, it gave me opportunities to do things I never thought I could do. The teachers are amazing and even though it's an online school, it's also a public school. This school made me feel more included than I felt at any public school where you physically sit in a classroom with other teachers and students. Constantly, you are involved in discussions with your peers, and your teachers make a huge effort to keep in contact with you and make sure you're giving it your all. Although you're in contact with the other peers, in a way Nevada

Connections Academy makes me feel like I'm the only student in the school. By this I mean the staff is doing everything they can to make sure I succeed. I just know they make the other students feel like they're the only one in the school in this way.


4. If it weren't for all of these teachers showing such an interest in me and making me feel like I could do anything, I probably wouldn't be graduating on time. Although I've had a busy schedule, my teachers have never given me more than I can handle, and they always make sure they do everything they can for me. I was previously at a different online school, and I never formed a connection with my teachers like I did at this school. The staff is so fixed on helping every one of its students, and I've never experienced a school where the teachers cared so much. When I came to Nevada Connections Academy I thought, "there's no way I can graduate on time," but they showed me different. These ambitious teachers made me who I am today.

5. Hearing that this school might close breaks my heart because there will be so many more students who need the opportunity I received from this school. There will be students who want to graduate on time, but don't believe in themselves. If Nevada Connections Academy gets shut down, those students will be denied the help and determination that this school gave me. The curriculum is a little challenging, but not too much to where I can't understand it and succeed. The teachers even make the lessons interesting by adding projects, portfolios, or activities. I hope you reconsider taking away Nevada Connections Academy, because this school is exactly what students who lost their way need: a school that helps you see that you can accomplish anything.

6. In my personal experience, I know that without Nevada Connections Academy, I would not have graduated on time. I'm positive that if I went to any other school I would have

had to do summer school or another year of high school in order to receive the credits I needed. The courses were put together so well, and easy to grasp, and i've never experienced that at a school before. I've never had teachers that were so involved and so available, not even at public school. Thanks to Nevada Connections Academy, I made up ten credits in one school year and graduated on time, this school made my dreams possible. Even though I am graduating this year, it truly would break my heart to see this school close down because everyone deserves the oppurtunity that I had with a school as amazing as Nevada Connections Academy. Please do not shut down this school. I am hoping one day my children will attend here, and experience this thorough education.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and corrected and was executed this 9th day of June, 2017, in \_\_\_\_\_, Nevada.

  
M. \_\_\_\_\_