

**Teresa Potter**

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**From:** Andrew Sherer [Bonanza HS] <sheream@nv.ccsd.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 22, 2024 6:19 AM  
**To:** SPCSA Public Comment  
**Subject:** Necca Academy

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Subject: SPCSA Public Comment - Necca Academy

Nevada State Charter School Board of Trustees:

I would like to express support for Necca Academy and their noble mission to open access to dual enrollment for at-risk student groups.

I have been privileged to be an educator in Clark County since 2007, where I've taught exclusively at Title I schools. Nearly all of my students throughout my tenure would be categorized as one or more of the at-risk student groups based on the SPCSA's definition (low income, certain ethnic group, English language learners, students with disabilities, and students in foster care). I also can relate to one of the subsets of Necca Academy's target audience - students in foster care - as I have been a foster parent to three wonderful, bright, and underprivileged children in the last decade.

Every day, I get the opportunity to see these kids push themselves academically and excel in honors and AP coursework, with many going on to attend prestigious universities throughout the United States. This past year, I and other members of our AP Academy had the opportunity to work via a partnership with UNLV to introduce a subset of over 20 of our AP students to UNLV college courses through dual enrollment. They thrived in the academic setting afforded to them and the experience became a bridge to college readiness as well as focusing on independent research and original thought, all the skills necessary to be successful in academia. Not only did the students earn AP credits at our high school, but also 100-level credits at UNLV in classes focused on leadership and interpersonal communication. I have also coached for nearly 15 years the sports of soccer and more recently tennis, with the same student population. In short, my career has been working with at-risk student populations and facilitating pathways for them to be successful not only in the present, but in the future as well.

Seeing students from all walks of life and backgrounds excel in and out of the classroom is incredibly rewarding. I see how Necca Academy's model can be life changing for students who would otherwise be overlooked, and I fully endorse their mission and plan.

I would ask the SPCSA Board of Trustees to not allow a label like "At-Risk" to prevent you from seeing these future leaders' true potential. They are some of the brightest and most resilient students in the school system, and their determination and desire to have ownership in creating a better life for themselves and their families is continually inspiring.

I look forward to seeing the meaningful change Necca Academy can do in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

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"There's no success like failure, and failure's no success at all"

- Bob Dylan

"Give a man fire, and you keep him warm for the night. Set a man on fire, and you keep him warm for a lifetime."

- Terry Pratchett