

## Teresa Potter

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**From:** Pro Sports RX LLC <info@prosportsrx.com>  
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**To:** SPCSA Public Comment  
**Subject:** Necca Academy

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SPCSA Board of Trustees:

My name is Dwight Ross and I am the founder of Pro Sports RX, an athletic training and physical therapy center located both here in Las Vegas, Tampa Bay and also Agoura Hills, CA.

When I first heard of Necca Academy's proposed model late last year, I was eager to support. Even back then, I thought it was interesting that Necca Academy proposes to be *the first* early college high school in Nevada to serve 9th grade, when so many other states already do this. Let's bring Nevada up.

I received the news that their application is recommended for denial. I was surprised to see some of the reasons for the recommendation, especially that it wasn't clear that there were enough supports in place for at-risk youth. When I've heard the team updates on the project over the past year - the level of support and wraparound services is what really made their plans stand out to me.

On one hand, I think of the kind of student that is classified as at-risk and I think it's important to keep in mind that at-risk doesn't equate to 'not capable'. Many of the kids who come to mind for me don't need the support. They just need opportunity. On the other hand - I've been in Vegas for a long time (1996.) I'm familiar with the early college high school options. There is very little support. It really seems like Necca Academy is taking a model that is known to work well and building on it.

My second thought: There are no real quality options for kids in North Las Vegas. Public schools are overcrowded or under-performing and the other schools run lotteries. The need and the demand is there.

My third thought: For the past 25+ years, I've trained and coached young athletes across the country, with the majority of students coming from low-income families or were generally overlooked because of the color of their skin. Back in 2006, I even became the legal guardian for one of my 13 year old trainees, who would have been on the streets and homeless otherwise. He went from a beautiful kid, with clothes washed in ditches, medicated by the foster care system, to a degreed, decorated collegiate college athlete at Oklahoma State University. He was on the brink of dropping out of middle school, and luckily, I was able to get to him in time and help course-correct his life. I also think of the professional athletes I coach today and almost all of their stories of coming from nothing. The level of grit and determination these kids have is unmatched. I notice, when the less privileged children are given attention and opportunity they excel!! BUT, without somebody guiding them and challenging them, they remain in their generation cycle of poverty and possibly, likely, drugs and crime. Still beautiful. Still wanting a better life.

I've spoken at length with a couple of the Necca Academy team members. I see and feel their passion and capabilities. For the benefit of our community, I hope and pray the SPCSA Board of Trustees seriously considers this application. I look forward to continuing to support this team in any way I can.

Regards,  
Dwight Ross

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