

Karie Sarabia

From: Kristin Eliassen <kristin.eliasen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 9:18 PM
To: SPCSA Public Comment
Cc: Kurt Thigpen; Ty Whitaker; Janelle Addis; Ivet Aldaba; Rosanne Richards; Victor Salcido; Courtney Stern; Victoria Turner
Subject: Letter of support for Doral Academy Of Northern Nevada's K-12 Amendment Proposal

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Dear Members of the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority Board,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Doral Academy of Northern Nevada's (DANN) charter amendment to build a K-12 campus. We currently have two daughters attending elementary school at Doral and a son that will attend Kindergarten in the fall of 2031. As a member of the Northern Nevada community, I urge the Board to vote in favor of this expansion, which represents a transformative milestone for education in the Reno area.

DANN's established track record of excellence is well-documented. The school's recent prestigious STEAM accreditations and civic engagement initiatives reflect an educational environment that balances rigorous technical skill with strong community leadership. However, the most compelling reason to approve this expansion is DANN's forward-thinking plan to become a university-connected lab school and to form strategic partnerships that prepare students to be the next generation of decision makers.

This proposed model would be the very first of its kind in Reno, establishing a powerful bridge between K-12 education and higher education. By operating as a lab school, DANN will serve as a premier training ground for local talent, offering a pipeline where future educators and specialized students collaborate directly on cutting-edge curriculum and hands-on research. This unique environment will not only enhance student learning but will directly cultivate the region's next generation of innovators, engineers, and skilled professionals. I graduated from UNR in 2011 with a dual BS/MS degree in Biotechnology and though I have recently left employment at UNR to stay home with my children, partnerships with my prior program within the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources (CABNR) as well as other UNR departments and programs would have economic impacts in our regions for years to come. It's exciting that these opportunities would not just be available to students in our region, but it's personal as I look forward to the opportunities that *my children* will have available to them.

Northern Nevada's economy is evolving rapidly, and our industries are in desperate need of a highly trained, locally grown workforce. Extending DANN's specialized, arts-integrated STEM curriculum through high school graduation ensures that Reno students are fully equipped to meet these workforce demands. I strongly encourage the Board to vote in favor of DANN's proposal to build this vital educational pathway for our youth and our economy.

Warmest Regards,

Kristin Eliassen, BS/MS
kristin.eliasen@gmail.com
775-230-1896