

Regents District 6 – southern Clark County (Patrick Carter, incumbent, not running)

2022 Candidates: Heather Brown, Karl Catarata, Jeanine Dakduk, Brandin Manwill

Brandin Manwill did not respond to NFA’s questionnaire

Question	Heather Brown	Karl Catarata	Jeanine Dakduk
Campaign Website	VoteHeatherBrown.com	VoteCatarata.com	www.dakdukforregent.com
Email Address	heather@voteheatherbrown.com	KarlForNevada@gmail.com	DakdukforRegent@gmail.com
City Address	Las Vegas	Henderson	Henderson
Educational background	Brown: Western High School, CCSD University of Nevada Las Vegas, NSHE	Catarata: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Valley High School International Baccalaureate Program ● UNLV - Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (Pending) ● UNLV - Minor, Certificate in Leadership and Civic Engagement (Completed) 	Dakduk: Bachelor of Arts in History from Northern Illinois University Master of Education in Educational Leadership from University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Current profession/employment	Brown: President, StartUp Vegas	Catarata: Mentor/Student	Dakduk: n/a “I know my approach to this campaign is not traditional. I have and will continue to put out information publically about my experience, knowledge, and approach to governance. I completed the general information of the NFA questionnaire, but I will be declining to answer the remaining questions at this time.”
Professional/employment background	Brown: 17+ years in the political realm working for candidates and issues that I believed in, including running a national organization for four years that had over 150,000 members. Small business owner. And now running a nonprofit that’s growing the startup tech ecosystem in southern Nevada prioritizing workforce development and economic diversification.	Catarata: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Former Staff Member to the Las Vegas City Council ● District Representative and Caseworker to the U.S. House of Representatives ● Southern Nevada Regional Field Organizer, Organizing For Action Las Vegas ● Communications Fellow, Center for Community Change Action ● Digital Marketing Coordinator, Susan G. Komen 	Dakduk: n/a

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Civic Engagement Fellow, Asian Community Development Council 	
Past elected offices or other public service	Brown: n/a	<p>Catarata: Current</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Mentoring ○ Co-Chair, Political Action and Community Engagement of the Las Vegas Human Rights Campaign ○ Member, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Council of the DISCOVERY Children’s Museum <p>Past</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Past - Youth Commissioner to the Nevada Commission on Mentoring ○ Member, City of Las Vegas, Neighborhood Partners Fund ○ Member, Youth Neighborhood Association Partnership Program ○ Member, The Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce ○ Member, The National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) 	Dakduk: n/a
Briefly, why are you running for the Board of Regents at this time?	<p>Brown: As someone with deep roots in Las Vegas, a graduate of CCSD and NSHE, a small business owner right here in the Valley, I decided to run for the Board of Regents because it was disheartening that the needs of students, faculty and staff were being overlooked by the very same people elected to protect them. I decided to run when I heard time and time again that NSHE strives for excellence yet the budgets and how money has been allocated does not reflect that. I decided to run because we need a board with collegiate experience that believes in decorum, ethics, and</p>	<p>Catarata: I am running for the NSHE Board of Regents because we need to make sure college is affordable, accessible, and puts our students forward for their future. I would be a responsible, reliable, and ready leader for the district. Most importantly, I believe we need a qualified, experienced, and community-minded young person on the Board of Regents.</p>	Dakduk: n/a

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	<p>stability. I want to repair the relationship with folks across Southern Nevada, prioritize graduation readiness, and ensure that the proper investments go into the community's workforce pipeline.</p>		
<p>What are your three highest priorities for the Board of Regents and the Nevada System of Higher Education?</p>	<p>Brown:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focusing on the three entities NSHE represents by prioritizing students by ensuring better graduation preparedness, taking care of the faculty with better fiscal responsibility, treating staff with decorum and ethics from the top down. 2. Make sure the NSHE budget mirrors the state's higher education needs, cutting programs and wasteful spending when necessary 3. Empowering Institution Presidents and lobbyists to represent their interest without selectively pigeonholing. Ensuring that NSHE is doing what's best for the state and not just for select institutions 	<p>Catarata: The Issues. Catarata will be a fighter to keep the university system accessible and affordable for Nevada's future. He's youthful, has the energy, and will be a careful steward of tax dollars for our education system.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affordable: Provide the best, high-quality postsecondary education at an affordable price. 2. Accessible: Advocate for students in underserved areas of Southern Nevada. 3. Nevada's Future: Investments in career readiness and workforce development. 	<p>Dakduk: n/a</p>
<p>The NSHE state budget was cut in 2020 and 2021 versus pre-pandemic levels. As a regent, how would you address budget shortfalls?</p>	<p>Brown: The budget needs an overhaul, especially now that it's been cut. More money needs to go directly to the institutions to spend on the students and less on administrative oversight. NSHE's budget is the largest of a state our size and yet our state consistently ranks towards the bottom of graduation and workforce readiness lists.</p>	<p>Catarata:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I would address budget shortfalls by working with the Nevada Legislature on putting the NSHE State Budget at the forefront of their minds. ● Yes, the NV Legislature is focused on abolishing the Board of Regents from the constitution. ● However, we need to continue creative investments into higher education, as higher education can help us solve workforce 	<p>Dakduk: n/a</p>

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		<p>development pipeline issues across the State of Nevada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I would address budget shortfalls by ensuring NSHE is included in the Governor’s next Executive Budget, specifically as a restoration of cuts to our budget. ● I would center this around faculty, students, and staff and the benefits that can be provided to them. ● I would be a changing, influential, positive voice for the legislature when it comes to looking to higher education in the state. 	
<p>In the face of declining state support for higher education, should student fees and tuition be increased to maintain programs? If not, what alternatives would you advocate?</p>	<p>Brown: Balancing the budget on the backs of students is never the first answer, I believe we need to cut the fat from the budget and prioritize projects that bring additional collegiate success. There’s plenty of line items that I would like to explore to find additional funding before I would support tuition increases.</p>	<p>Catarata:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student fees and tuition should not be increased to maintain programs, but specific budgets can be revised to support higher education. ● The onus of declining state support should not be blamed or placed on students. ● Students are already paying multiple different items for college: tuition, food, housing, gas/travel, etc. ● There are multiple alternatives I would advocate for. One example is excessive salaries for specific university administrators (who are not faculty or staff). ● Further, I would work with the respective Nevada Governor and the Legislature when it comes to allocating state funding to support higher education. ● The Board of Regents have been absent when it comes to collaborating with the legislature on creative ways to support higher education. We need to do better. Simply, we need to collaborate. 	<p>Dakduk: n/a</p>
<p>The Board of Regents oversees two universities, a state college, four community</p>	<p>Brown: I would build a better relationship with the Presidents of the institutions in order to understand and prioritize what each entity needs and how their proposed</p>	<p>Catarata:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In brief, I would allocate the needs and resources for the various institutions of NSHE by working with the Chancellor and system 	<p>Dakduk: n/a</p>

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colleges, and a research institute. Given limited resources, how would you balance the needs and allocate resources for the various institutions of NSHE?	changes / additions would add to the overall success of graduation preparedness.	administrators to see what is possible for the Presidents and their specific campuses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resources are limited, thus we must be strategic on where they are placed. ● Time is also limited, thus we must be collaborative and connected on how we balance the needs of campus-specific requests made by faculty and by the Presidents. 	
The Board of Regents and Nevada System of Higher Education have been in the news lately and over many years for conflicts among regents and administrators and between NSHE and the Legislature. How would you address those issues?	Brown: I think the lack of decorum, ethics, and stability are to blame for many of the news stories. I would build a coalition and proactively focus on repairing relationships with staff and then the community.	Catarata: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I would be an active participant with students, faculty, and staff activities. ● This would mean I would address issues by being collaborative, rather than continuing conflict. ● From a collaborative standpoint, I am able to understand multiple opposing viewpoints, but move forward with the community on specific requests. ● I would address the hyperpartisan and divisive nature of the NSHE Board of Regents by being a connected Regent to the community. ● Plainly, I would bring Democratic and Republican viewpoints together to the Board of Regents. 	Dakduk: n/a
As a Regent, how would you address issues with the recruitment and retention of faculty and staff?	Brown: First, we need to improve our reputation and show the nation that we can be a State with many top tier institutions. We must also make sure that every member of faculty and staff are fairly compensated so that morale improves and then we can make progress on bringing in outside talent. We have to provide opportunities for every voice to be heard and engaged in order to enhance our institutions.	Catarata: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recruitment and retention are important issues for faculty and staff. ● I would work with system administrators and the Presidents of each campus to look to morale and employee benefits to further retain faculty and staff. ● I would work with the appropriate departments and administrators when it comes to recruitment, and that we are recruiting the best across the Southern Nevada Valley. 	Dakduk: n/a

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most importantly, on the topic of recruitment, I would focus on ensuring employees are able to move up and onward with their goals across the system. 	
<p>What are your thoughts about collective bargaining for NSHE professional employees? Specifically, would you support or oppose legislation for collective bargaining rights for NSHE professional employees in statute?</p>	<p>Brown: I support collective bargaining.</p>	<p>Catarata:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I support legislation for collective bargaining for NSHE professional employees in statute. ● I come from a family of working-class Nevadans, who are a part of unions who support their livelihood. ● I am the only candidate who would work with local unions and working class families if elected. 	<p>Dakduk: n/a</p>
<p>If Nevada is faced with another pandemic, what considerations do you believe regents should apply to decisions associated with public health mandates for employee and students?</p>	<p>Brown: There are many facets to this question but first and foremost we must adhere to the rules and laws in which we are governed whether that be by the federal government or the State of Nevada. I am a person who has faith in science and believes we, as humans, are living longer because of the advances in technology and medicine. However, I also know that our nation, state and young people can't endure another shut-down like we have experienced these past two years. There are many other components to physical health that must come into play and any policy decision must be considered holistically.</p>	<p>Catarata:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regents should listen to medical experts and the Governor's directives. ● Regents should also take into consideration what the local business, health, and local municipal government community is supporting. ● Regents should have open dialogue with students, faculty, staff, and system administrators on what the next best steps are. ● Personally, I would be open to public health mandates that are in alignment with what local hospitals and healthcare professionals are saying as they would bear the brunt of another pandemic. 	<p>Dakduk: n/a</p>
<p>Do you support or oppose allowing the concealed or open carry of firearms on NSHE campuses?</p>	<p>Brown: I oppose allowing concealed carry on NSHE campuses. Our higher education institutions should be safe spaces and I would want a similar policy in place as government buildings.</p>	<p>Catarata:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I oppose allowing concealed and open carry firearms on NSHE campuses. ● That is the role of University Police Services. ● I am the only candidate in my race to have had a track record of opposing weapons on 	<p>Dakduk: n/a</p>

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		college campuses. As a community organizer, I lead rallies and efforts to oppose concealed and open carry of firearms on the UNLV campus.	
Would you support or oppose a policy to regulate discussion of or teaching about divisive topics such as Critical Race Theory on NSHE campuses?	Brown: I would oppose a policy regulation. Higher Education is about learning critical thinking skills and new ways to view the world. Students have free agency and an ability to not take a class if it conflicts with their personal beliefs, but I would not stifle an educated discussion on “divisive” topics at the NSHE level.	Catarata: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I would oppose any policies regulating discussion. ● College and university campuses should be spaces where academic freedom allows students to come to their own conclusions with the facts and research provided to them. ● I am in opposition because, as a community organizer, we must bring our communities to the facts and show them what the best path forward is. Not with restrictive policies. 	Dakduk: n/a
What is your view of NSHE governance? Should the Board of Regents concern itself with the internal operations of the eight NSHE institutions, or else should the Board simply hire the Presidents and let them run the institutions?	Brown: I believe in a strong policy governance structure. As elected officials, we are there to provide vision, accountability and oversight to the public, faculty and students regarding higher education in Nevada. The Board must hire the best people who are experts in their fields to run daily operations, because they have more experience than an entire board may have combined. Every person has a role. Because I may have some business acumen does not mean I am qualified to be a professor in accounting or be the Dean of the business school. Every person has a role and a lane, and if our governance structure remains in its own lanes, we will have the greatest expertise combined in one place.	Catarata: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The board has a tremendous role in both concerning itself with the outreach and oversight of eight NSHE institutions, but also the hiring and running of the Presidents. ● I would be a regent that would do both; but I would allow the Chancellor to do their job, the Presidents to do their jobs, and system administrators to do their work. I would not micro-manage nor be cynical of their plans. ● I would work in tandem with system administrators and the Chancellor to effectively run the system. That is my view of NSHE governance. Work together. 	Dakduk: n/a
What are your top criteria for choosing a Chancellor?	Brown: A person who has integrity, vision, and has had success as a strong leader. They must also be a fair negotiator. Moreover, I think a skill that is often overlooked is the	Catarata: Here are my top criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student and Faculty Focused: I would ensure the next Chancellor serves the needs 	Dakduk: n/a

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	kitchen cabinet with whom they surround themselves. Every great leader should know their strengths and their weaknesses and hire a workforce that completes gaps in skills. If the cabinet is strong and can work together, then the institutions will be as well.	and interests of students and faculty. This should be their primary investment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communicative: I would select a Chancellor with the skills to community their work and future planning with the Nevada Faculty Alliance and the Board of Regents. ● Collaboration: I would select a Chancellor who has the background experience to work with boards and commissions from their past experience. 	
A proposed constitutional amendment to remove the Board of Regents from the Nevada Constitution is under consideration by the Legislature and may go to the voters in 2024. What is your position on the proposed amendment?	Brown: I understand and empathize with why a question like Q1 was on the ballot. And certainly, the current Board’s behavior proves the point for the need for reform. I’m running to usher in immediate reform, and if the proposed amendment makes it back to the ballot, I will honor what the voters decide.	Catarata: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes, I am the only candidate in my race to be outspoken to remove the Board of Regents from the Nevada Constitution. ● Why: If removed, either the Board of Regents would be a hybrid appointment and elected board. ● This would not change my outreach and advocacy for students, faculty, and staff across the university system. ● I would still serve out my full 6-year term. 	Dakduk: n/a
If elected to the Board of Regents, do you pledge to uphold the principles of academic freedom and tenure as expressed in the AAUP/AACU 1940 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure ?	Brown: Yes.	Catarata: Yes	Dakduk: n/a
			Dakduk follow-up response: I pledged at the start of my campaign not to seek partisan endorsements. I have since expanded my pledge to include organizational endorsements.

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			<p>I subscribe to the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) Principles of Trusteeship. Principle four says to lead with “impeccable integrity.” It further encourages board members to put the system “ahead of your personal preferences and political allegiances.” Endorsement questionnaires, even if nonpartisan, are framed to encourage a personal stance on a particular topic.</p> <p>A Regent needs to review the proposals from the Chancellor and their team to make informed decisions on policy. To take a stance now is premature. The issues change. The environment evolves. A Regent must be impartial, not beholden to campaign promises.</p> <p>Principle five is to think independently and act collectively. To ensure independence, AGB emphasizes that board members must speak up on important issues, even if they are uncomfortable or unpopular.</p> <p>For example, it is uncomfortable and highly unpopular for any candidate or sitting Regent to say they support tuition increases. One of 20 questions asked on the Nevada Faculty Alliance’s (NFA) endorsement questionnaire relates to tuition. While unpopular, tuition increases are historically inevitable. Inflation is real. State funding fluctuates. Low compensation for faculty and staff, lack of competitiveness in the marketplace, and outdated infrastructure are serious issues if tuition remains flat. Regardless, any change to tuition and fees requires careful analysis. Understanding the context of a proposed tuition change matters. I am not interested in garnering votes or support with false promises of freezing tuition and fees.</p>

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			<p>I want to be clear though, NFA's input is most welcome. The same goes for other groups. The Chancellor, other elected officials, government entities, faculty, students, and the community will have a viewpoint. Sometimes, stakeholders are aligned on issues. More often, division surfaces from a variety of thoughts. The Board should see the validity and the shortcomings of all sides. Then, the Board should make a sound decision based on what is best for the system, not just their districts or alma maters.</p> <p>Let me end with a question that remains ever-present in my mind, especially since the start of my campaign: How can a candidate for Regent claim to be impartial if they seek endorsements that ingratiate themselves with certain groups?</p> <p>I hope NFA and its members understand why I am not participating in the questionnaire and interview.</p>