

Regents District 8— Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Lincoln, Nye, White Pine, and northern Clark (Cathy McAdoo, incumbent, not running)

Question	Michelee “Shelly” Crawford	John Patrick Rice
Date responses submitted or revised	8/7/2022	8/1/2022
Campaign Website	votesshelly.com	johnpatrickrice@gmail.com
Email Address	voting4shelly@gmail.com	www.riceforregent.com
City Address	Las Vegas	Elko
Educational background	<p>Crawford:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community College of Southern Nevada- AA Psychology; ▪ Sierra Nevada College- BA Teaching English as a Second Language; ▪ University of Nevada Las Vegas- MA Curriculum and Instruction; ▪ University of Phoenix- Literacy certificate; ▪ Georgetown University- Public Policy certificate; ▪ Current William Howard Taft University- Ed.D Leadership and Education Administration candidate ▪ I have taught K-college and I am a current principal 	<p>Rice:</p> <p>I have a BA in theatre arts from Viterbo University, an MFA in Theatre-Acting from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Higher Education Leadership from Capella University in Minneapolis, MN</p>
Current profession/employment	<p>Crawford: I am a principal within CCSD. I am an Air Force officer with the Nevada National Guard overseeing educational leadership and diversity, equity, and inclusion. I teach higher education classes for license renewal.</p>	<p>Rice: Professor, Fine Arts and Humanities, Great Basin College</p>
Professional/employment background	<p>Crawford:</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – School Administrator Title I Principal/Assistant Principal August 2015- Present C.C. Ronnow Elementary, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – Curriculum and Professional Development Alternative Route to Licensure Educator November 2014-August 2015 Employee Onboarding & Development, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>School Performance Framework Cadre Member June 2014- August 2015 Instructional Design and Professional Learning, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>Intervention for Struggling Readers Cadre Member March 2014-August 2015 Curriculum and Professional Development, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>Stocking the Lake: Curriculum Engine Resource Reviewer March 2014-April 2014 Curriculum and Professional Development, Las Vegas, NV</p>	<p>Rice:</p> <p>Professor, Theatre Arts, Fine Arts, Humanities and Communications, and Theatre Program Director, 1996- present Chair, GBC Faculty Senate, three terms Chair, NSHE Board of Regents Council of Senate Chairs Chair, GBC Arts and Letters Department, rotating position Chair, Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Council of Senate Chairs Chief Development Officer and Executive Director, Great Basin College and Great Basin College Foundation, 2007-2015</p>

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	<p>Nevada Formative Writing Assessment Instructor February 2014- August 2015 Curriculum and Professional Development, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>GROW: Literacy Research Reviewer August 2013- August 2015 Curriculum and Professional Development, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>WIKI Teacher Lessons August 2013- August 2015 Curriculum and Professional Development, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>Writing Academy Trainer of Trainers August 2013-August 2015 Curriculum and Professional Development, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – Coaching Project Facilitator Title I Striving Readers Instructional Coach August 2014-August 2015 Clyde Cox Elementary, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>Alternative Route to Licensure Educator November 2014-August 2015 Employee Onboarding & Development, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – Elementary Education Third Grade Licensed Teacher August 2013-August 2015 Heckethorn Elementary, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>Title I Fourth Grade Licensed Teacher August 2012-June 2013 Martinez Elementary, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>Title I First Grade Licensed Teacher August 2011-June 2012 Rex Bell Elementary, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>5th Grade Licensed Teacher October 2010-June 2011 Dean Lamar Allen Elementary, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – Middle School Education 7th Grade Reading Teacher August 2004-June 2005 Saville Middle School, Las Vegas, NV</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – High School Education Title I Math Teacher August 2003-June 2004 Cheyenne High School, Las Vegas, NV</p>	
<p>Past elected offices or other public service</p>	<p>Crawford:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National Guard Lieutenant - Nevada Department of Education principal advisory cabinet - State of Nevada multicultural committee chair - CCSD human resource Diversity chair 	<p>Rice:</p> <p>Three terms, Elko City Council Board Member, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, appointed by United States Senate</p>

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Briefly, why are you running for the Board of Regents at this time?	<p>Crawford: I believe the Nevada System of Higher Education can collectively work together to create opportunities for rural and urban students. I am running because I want to reinstate credibility to the board by working together to create policy and financial NSHE support. I am a former foster care student that has a successful life because of my Nevada college education. I want to create opportunities for students and institutions that are historically underrepresented. I created a diversity pathway education program that was funded at \$10 million by the state and was instrumental in the broadband internet bill that brought the internet to rural communities. I have learned that my position as a principal and Air Force member can bring people together to get work done. I am running because I would like every Nevadan to have access to colleges and careers. I am confident that I have the voice, reach, and work ethic to bridge financial and opportunity gaps.</p>	<p>Rice: As a professional in higher education for nearly 30 years, I am eager to bring my experience to the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. Having worked as a professor, administrator, and leader in higher ed, I have unique skills and perspectives that will enhance the education of Nevada’s college students. The future of Nevada’s workforce, professional education and research needs to be stewarded by higher education professionals committed to guiding the Nevada System of Higher Education into the second quarter of the 21st Century.</p>
What are your three highest priorities for the Board of Regents and the Nevada System of Higher Education?	<p>Crawford:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Properly funding rural institutions. 2) Expand and create college programming opportunities. 3) Bring credibility back to the board by redefining working collectively with staff, presidents, students, board members, and chancellors. 	<p>Rice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote access to higher education and capital investment in brick and mortar and online learning infrastructure throughout Nevada. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to invest in in-person instruction in rural communities in critical career areas such as health care and mining technology. b. Assure access to higher education in every urban and rural community through continued partnerships with school districts. c. Increase broadband capacities at rural and urban campuses and centers. 2. Continue to build Nevada System of Higher Education online education using Great Basin College’s world class distance education faculty and infrastructure as the foundation for expanding NSHE’s world-wide reach. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Capitalize on the City of Elko’s investment in community-wide high-speed fiber broadband to create the GBC Elko campus as the center for Distance Education in Nevada. 3. Using the developing NSHE strategic plan and the ongoing conversations surrounding “Question One”, engage in professionalizing the operations of the Board of Regents in order to advance all of NSHE. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Questions remain about the future of governance within NSHE. We must look at this as an opportunity, and work to transform NSHE to better serve students in the 21st Century.

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<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>Crawford: I have a unique reach with government, federal congressional leaders, and community members with my task force work, as a high leverage principal, and military service member. I have success creating budgetary changes by sharing impact stories that leverage change. I plan to use this forum to build relationships with policy makers and constituents to understand the impact of higher education to fight for budget support. My résumé shows that this has been successful because I created paraprofessional education Pathway programs across Nevada and I have federal bills that have been supported with \$6 billion and state bills that have been funded at \$10 million. My life’s work is to create opportunities. I will work day and night to fix the budget shortfalls.</p>	<p>Rice: First of all, we will need to reestablish trust of the BOR at the legislature in order to be able to receive as much funding as we need. Secondly, we must examine the current funding formula. It is evident the “new” formula is inequitable, especially to the smaller institutions. I believe we are missing an opportunity with the large number of online students we have (and can potentially attract) and can monetize that activity in such a way as to create more revenue for traditional operations. These “enterprise opportunities” are being used by many large, public systems and Nevada has yet to capitalize on that opportunity.</p>
<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>Crawford: I am proud that the state of Nevada has some of the lowest tuition rates within our country. In order to increase access, we should not increase rates for students. An alternative way to advocate for funding is having future employers pay for educational training.</p>	<p>Rice: Student fees must always be examined, but we do not want to price students out of a higher education, especially with so many first-generation college students. However, an amazing un-tapped resource lies in the distribution of mining royalties in Nevada. Two very small rural counties, Eureka and Lander, have about \$300,000,000 of combined royalty revenues sitting in the bank. The formulas for mining royalty payments are antiquated, and the resource needs to be tapped to supplement higher education. Additionally, revenues from expansion of Las Vegas gaming and sports complexes can be used to increase funding for higher ed. UNLV claims to be a “land-grant” institution (Established by the Morrill Act) but does not receive meaningful land-grant funding. DRI makes the same claim and is in the same revenue position. UNR, on the other hand, claims to be the only land-grant institution and receives considerable funding from the Morrill act. Equitable distribution of those funds must be considered. We must continue to call upon our college foundations for assistance with funding, especially as administrative salaries continue to climb while faculty salaries do not. Foundations should cover a portion of high administrative salaries. Community colleges must reinvigorate the work their foundations do as well.</p>
<p>The Board of Regents oversees two universities, a state college, four community colleges, and a research institute. Given limited resources, how would you balance the needs and allocate resources for the various institutions of NSHE?</p>	<p>Crawford: As an advocate for rural communities, I believe we need to increase rural programming by having a weighted funding formula that provides additional funding for rural communities because they are traditionally underserved.</p>	<p>Rice: Again, I go back to an examination of the funding formula. However, there is plenty of room for collaborative efforts between institutions. I believe there is an opportunity for a comprehensive restructuring of NSHE. I don’t know exactly what that looks like, but it means looking at the big picture of NSHE with every business decision we make. If we are adding a health science program at one of the Universities, for instance, what opportunities exist for enhancing health science offerings in the nearby community or state college? My point is, for the last quarter century, I have watched NSHE try to change by “cutting and pasting” itself together with no real plan. The BOR needs professionals to guide a transformation of higher ed in Nevada.</p>

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<p>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?</p>	<p>Crawford: I am very upset about the work that has stopped due to conflict. As a school system and military leader, I facilitate system changes by creating collective goals and checks for maintaining those goals. I would address the issues by facilitating work sessions with constituents and board members to create institutional changes with targets maintained with deadlines.</p>	<p>Rice: I am a Higher Education Professional. We work on a collegial and collaborative model. I will bring that practice to the BOR and hold Board colleagues accountable to the standards of a professional organization.</p>
<p>As a Regent, how would you address issues with the recruitment and retention of faculty and staff?</p>	<p>Crawford: As a school leader I have 100% staff retention and staff that is on a waiting list to work at my school. All of this was done by identifying barriers. This week I asked my staff everything our institution is doing wrong. We are improving our school by bridging gaps. I serve on the state task force for recruitment and retainment and I have learned that people leave bosses before they leave jobs. A close second is pay, healthcare, and benefits. I pledge to bridge barriers while also advocating for sustainable pay.</p>	<p>Rice: Recent events in NSHE have made recruitment and retention difficult. Again, professionalizing the work of NSHE and marketing our transformed image to the world will be required. We are a tarnished organization, and it will take some time to repair the damage done to NSHE. I will also go back to the funding formula for this question... we must be able to provide competitive salaries, not just at the universities, but at the teaching community colleges as well.</p>
<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? Smith:</p>	<p>Crawford: I am a huge advocate for collective bargaining. I am in the union. My parents are in the union. My husband is a 5th generation union ironworker. Anytime someone is against collective-bargaining, they are for taking care of themselves and not employees. Collective bargaining is a recruitment and retention measure that spills over and greatly impacts the world around us by creating a quality of life. We can pay our employees correctly or we can pay for them with government assistance. Collective bargaining is better for our world.</p>	<p>Rice: I support collective bargaining and legislation supporting collective bargaining rights. In my own experience, COVID provided an opportunity for administration to cut back on incentive pay, travel, professional development and more. The institutions that do not have collective bargaining have probably lost that compensation forever. We need employment agreements that are concrete, and which require administration work with faculty and staff before making unilateral decisions.</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>Crawford: Regents need to be focused on fiscal needs and policy. The health mandates should be dictated by the state and supported within the institution. If I am a regent, I will take the mandates as given and continue the work needed from the board.</p>	<p>Rice: We are a collection of academics who recognize and value science. We follow science and the recommendations of the organizations providing guidance.</p>

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Do you support or oppose allowing the concealed or open carry of firearms on NSHE campuses?	Crawford: Conceal and carry should be dictated by the government and supported within the institution. If I am a regent, I will take the mandates as given and continue the work needed from the board. With recent school shootings, I support strict gun laws and removal of assault weapons.	Rice: A college campus is no place for firearms. I oppose allowing concealed or open carry on NSHE campuses.
Would you support or oppose a policy to regulate discussion of or teaching about divisive topics such as Critical Race Theory on NSHE campuses?	Crawford: The beauty of higher education is learning who you are and what you believe in. Exposure does this. Creating any policy that regulates discussion within academia is uncalled for. For this, I would oppose policy that regulates discussion of critical race theory or any theory.	Rice: I will oppose any such policy.
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?	Crawford: I believe that a regent needs to focus on voting on policies, budgets, and hiring or presidents and not micromanaging institutions. We should also be a safe place where constituents can bring concerns and ideas to a regent.	Rice: I believe our purpose is to hire visionary presidents and system administrators and let them do their jobs. I have watched too many NSHE presidents and chancellors come to the job with outstanding vision and plans to fulfill them, and then watched the Board of Regents do everything they can to prevent them from fulfilling their vision. I will stop it.
What are your top criteria for choosing a Chancellor?	Crawford: We need to hire a Chancellor with a solid 5 year plan for creating opportunities and expanding our programming. We need to hire a chancellor that collectively brings people together with identifying systematic issues by talking frequently to constituents and enacting change. We need to hire a chancellor that works for our institutions that is a leader and visionary.	Rice: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PhD 2. Proven successful fulfillment of vision at a peer university or system. 3. A strategically minded executive leader with experience in brick and mortar and online institutions. 4. An established record of effective executive board relations and management.

Question	Michelee “Shelly” Crawford	John Patrick Rice
<p>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?</p>	<p>Crawford: I will support what is decided by the voters. I am in support.</p>	<p>Rice: I believe NSHE and the Board of Regents need to transform their role and function. I voted in favor of the amendment. However, I am eager to meet with the framers and other supporters of the amendment to see if there may still be some “middle-ground” to work. If during such a time we are unable to find some sort of solution, I would consider supporting the amendment once again.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Crawford: Yes</p>	<p>Rice: Yes</p>
<p>Why are you the better qualified candidate for Regent District 8?</p>	<p>Crawford: My opponent and I are both qualified. As a candidate, I am unique in that if elected, I will be the first Latino to serve on the board which brings a new perspective that has been missing. I have state and federal legislative experience and I am currently working on state education legislation that increases access for underrepresented populations (rural, first generation, and those that struggle to get their foot in the door) to attend college and have access to careers. Within my work, I work bottom up to identify root causes, issues, and barriers to create system change through changing practices and policy. This is evident with my state college barrier removal research that brought about legislation and NSHE collective change to increase programming and funding. I seek first to understand by asking questions from subject matter experts (students, staff, presidents, etc.) rather than making decisions in isolation. This is evident through my rural listening tours where community members shared concerns about college access barriers which I acted upon to bring resources to communities. This resulted in earning Esmeralda, Eureka, Lincoln, Nye, White Pine, and Clark’s vote. During the Primary, I earned the trust of every county in District 8 with the exception of Elko where my opponent resides. I am kind, thoughtful, and meticulous in my leadership as a principal leading a \$5 million budget school with zero vacancies (which is quite a feat in today’s job market). Overall, I am a highly qualified candidate with a work ethic aimed at collectively working to resolve District 8 and rural issues.</p>	<p>Rice: I have respect for my opponent. She is intelligent, hard working and accomplished. However, all her experience is in k-12. She has no practical teaching, administrative or governance experience in higher education. I have more than thirty years of experience in higher education as a professor, administrator, and leader. I also carry a very important and reasonable rural-Nevada voice which will be important to the future of the BOR. Rural Nevada is home to 200,000 Nevadans with needs that are unique to their environment. I am the only candidate with that qualification.</p>

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Is there anything else you would like to communicate to NFA members?	Crawford: Yes! I look forward to working with NFA members to gain understanding of the institutions’ challenges and ideas for improvement.	Rice: I have been a member of the Nevada Faculty Alliance since 1996. I have served as an officer in the GBC NFA Chapter and GBC’s representative to the State NFA Board. I am the only NFA member on the ballot in my District. I will be pleased to receive the endorsement of my NFA brothers and sisters.