Lunch and Presentation: What’s Up in Nevada?

Monday, May 18, 2009
12.15 - 1.45 pm
Estancia F
Las Vegas, Nevada 5-1

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Nevada System of Higher Education Chancellor James E. Rogers will provide a welcome to Nevada and give a brief perspective on the current legislative session. Michael Wixom, chair of the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, will outline Nevada’s unique situation, as this Wild West state struggles to build a quality higher education system. Nevada – which historically hasn’t needed or valued college degrees – currently faces the worst economic picture in the country.

Speakers: James E. Rogers, chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education; and Michael Wixom, chair of the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents.

Biographical Information on the Speakers

James E. Rogers was appointed by the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Board of Regents to serve as the NSHE’s ninth chancellor in 2005. He previously served as interim chancellor from 2004 until his appointment. He is a member of the state bar associations of Nevada, Arizona, and California and was in active law practice in Las Vegas from 1964 to 1988. Rogers is the founder and owner of Sunbelt Communications Company, which owns and operates 16 NBC and FOX affiliate television stations in five Western states. In addition, he has served on numerous boards. Rogers was listed as one of the top 12 philanthropists in the nation by *Time* magazine, for having given or pledged more than $275 million to various colleges and universities. Rogers has a B.S. in accounting and an LL.B. in law from the University of Arizona and a master of laws degree from the University of Southern California. He was a teaching fellow in the law school of the University of Illinois in 1963 and 1964. He holds honorary doctorates from the University of Arizona and a master of laws degree from the University of Southern California. He was a teaching fellow in the law school of the University of Illinois in 1963 and 1964. He holds honorary doctorates from the University of Arizona, Gonzaga University, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the University of Idaho, Idaho State University, Albertson College of Idaho, Carroll College of Montana, and Kentucky Wesleyan College, as well as a master of laws in international law from the University of Arizona.

Michael Wixom was appointed by Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn to serve on the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents in 2005 and was elected in 2006. He is the representative for Clark County, District 6, and is currently serving his second term as board chair. He also serves on the board’s Audit, Investment, and the ad hoc Technology committees. He attended Idaho State University, where he majored in political science and economics, and graduated with a bachelor of science degree, earning high honors. He later attended the University of Utah’s College of Law, graduating as a William L. Leary Scholar and serving as a member of the Utah Law Review. He has practiced law in Las Vegas since 1986 and is a shareholder in the law firm of Smith Larsen & Wixom. His areas of practice include banking, real estate finance, and commercial transactions.