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Contact: Dr. Nancy E. Brune, Executive Director
Guinn Center for Policy Priorities; (702) 522-2178; nbrune@guinncenter.org

Seth Rau, Policy Director
Nevada Succeeds; (702) 483-7096; seth@nevadasucceeds.org

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Which Education Proposals will Give Nevada the Biggest Bang for the Buck?

LAS VEGAS, NV— Governor Brian Sandoval has proposed almost two dozen initiatives to help move Nevada's education system into the 21st Century. The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities and Nevada Succeeds have co-authored a new report that reviews empirical research to analyze which of these proposals are most correlated with improved student outcomes: *Examining Nevada's Education Priorities: Which Initiatives are Worth the Investment?* Based on this review, the report ranks each initiative as high, medium, or low priority.

Programs ranked as the highest priority, include:

- Pre-K (early childhood) programs;
- A new funding formula, phased in to address specific student populations such as English Language Learners, at-risk students, and special education students;
- Language Acquisition Intervention programs;
- Programs aimed at career and technical education and college and career readiness;
- Professional development for teachers; and
- Extension of rollover bonds for school construction.

The report finds that efforts to improve education outcomes do not work in isolation and that the quality of implementation is intrinsic to success. For example, early childhood education programs are only effective when taught by highly trained teachers. To ensure that programs are successful, the State must demand greater accountability and link financing to performance goals.

The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, bipartisan, policy center focused on providing independent and data-driven analysis of critical policy issues facing Nevada and the Intermountain West. The Guinn Center engages policy-makers, experts, and the public with innovative, fact-based research and analysis to advance policy solutions and inform debate.

Nevada Succeeds is a bipartisan education policy organization founded by concerned members of Nevada's business community. We seek to bring effective, evidence based education practices to Nevada's P-20 Education System by engaging education professionals, policy makers, and the public to understand the needs of our State and to advance the policy solutions that will improve literacy outcomes for all students by improving the quality of teachers, leaders, and systems in Nevada.

6795 Edmond Street, Suite 300, Las Vegas, NV 89118; phone (702) 522-2178; www.guinncenter.org