

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The University of Southern Nevada Granted Initial Accreditation by  
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities**

*Valued Regional Accreditation Ensures Academic Programs Meet Highest Standards for  
Educational Quality*

**HENDERSON, Nev. – Jan. 21, 2009** – The University of Southern Nevada today announced it has been granted Initial Accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, a recognition that puts USN in line with other quality academic institutions nationwide. The NWCCU is a nationally recognized regional accrediting agency for post-secondary institutions. The effective date of accreditation for USN is Sept. 1, 2008.

“We are very proud to achieve accreditation by the NWCCU,” said Dr. Harry Rosenberg, Pharm.D., Ph.D., president of USN. “Our administration, faculty and staff have strived to develop an exceptional higher-education institution of the utmost academic standards, fulfilling its mission to graduate competent, high-quality and caring healthcare professionals to serve Nevada and our surrounding regions. NWCCU accreditation adds tremendous value to our four academic programs and marks a significant milestone for USN.”

The university has been working towards accreditation for nearly three years. In 2005, USN began the important process of attaining accreditation through the NWCCU, one of six recognized regional accrediting organizations in the nation that review degree-granting non-profit and for-profit institutions. In October of that same year, the NWCCU held its first comprehensive evaluation visit to USN and was subsequently granted candidacy status in January 2006. The NWCCU conducted scheduled site visits in 2007 and, most recently, in October 2008 with the purpose of evaluating USN for initial accreditation.

Regional accreditation has several fundamental purposes: it reaffirms a commitment to quality assurance and ongoing institutional and program improvement. The status of accreditation also reflects excellence in education, focus on quality, and commitment to standards and accountability. Most of all, it assures each past, present and future student that the institution has approved programs of study, qualified instructors, adequate facilities, approved recruitment and admissions policies, and operates on a sound financial basis.

Additionally, accreditation qualifies the university and enrolled students for access to federal and state financial aid program funds to support teaching, research and student aid. Accreditation is also important for acceptance and transfer of college credit, and is a prerequisite for starting many graduate and professional programs.

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The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is an independent, non-profit membership organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as the regional authority on educational quality and institutional effectiveness of higher education institutions in the seven-state Northwest region of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. It fulfills its mission by establishing accreditation criteria and evaluation procedures by which institutions are reviewed.

The commission oversees regional accreditation for 162 institutions. Its decision-making body consists of up to 26 commissioners who represent the public and the diversity of higher education institutions within the Northwest region.

*Founded in 1999, the University of Southern Nevada is a private, non-profit 501(c) (3) higher learning institution with campuses located in Henderson, Nev. and South Jordan, Utah. The university offers high-quality degree programs in the area of health sciences, including Advanced Education in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics residency, Doctor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Science in Nursing as well as a Master of Business Administration degree program. For information call 702-990-4433 or visit [www.usn.edu](http://www.usn.edu).*

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