

**DRAFT MINUTES
STATE OF NEVADA
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

NEVADA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MINUTES

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE AND IN PERSON

The public may observe this meeting and provide public comment during the public comment section on Zoom or in person at:

Live Meeting:

DETR –Stan Jones Building
Conference Room C
2800 E. St. Louis Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89104

Zoom Meeting:

Topic: CPE Quarterly Commission Meeting
Time: August 5, 2026, 9:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Meeting:

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Staff Present During Video Conference

Kelly Wuest, CPE Administrator
Maricris Wu, CPE Education Specialist
Susan Beckett, CPE Compliance Investigator II
Devon Kajatt, CPE Administrative Assistant III

Commissioners Present During Video Conference Meeting

Dr. Thomas Kenny, Chair
Sharon Frederick, Vice Chair
Dr. Randall Kirner
Jessica Todtman

Commissioners Absent During Video Conference Meeting

Kara Abe (excused)
Sherida Devine (excused)
Peter Mikhail (excused)
Jon Ponder (excused)

Members of the Public, Educational Institutions, and Other Agencies Present

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

David Bither, Vice President, Advanced Career Institute

Dr. Sharon Conn, Academic Director, Advanced Career Institute

Mike Hennesey, President and Founder, American Lineman School

Matthew Kalb, Owner, CE by Matthew

Heather Kalb, CE by Matthew

Gwen Braimoh, Co-Founder, Expertise Cosmetology Institute

Kenneth Rollins, Program Director, Expertise Cosmetology Institute

Amy Groves, Director, Nevada's Finest Properties

Anita Gomez, Academic Director, Nevada's Finest Properties

Sunny Hennesey, Private Citizen

Felice Lane Vickers, Compliance Manager, Expertise Cosmetology Institute

Anne King, Independent Contractor, Cotulla Education; on behalf of American Lineman School

John Orolfo, CE by Matthew

Bella Peterson, Private Citizen

Dr. Sandy Mahoney, Academic Director, Las Vegas College

Kristen Clay, Vice President of Admissions and Campus Operations, American Lineman School

Laura Fussel, Private Citizen

STATE OF NEVADA
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
MINUTES

August 5, 2026 – 9:00 AM PDT

Call to Order

The meeting was held via Video Conference; via Zoom; and in person, DETR – Stan Jones Building, 2800 E. St. Louis Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89104. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Thomas Kenny at approximately 9:02 AM.

Public Comment Phone Option Instructions

For members of the public please note the options for attending this zoom meeting are via web and phone:

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Public Comments

Devon Kajatt confirmed no one was physically present in the conference room, in the Zoom meeting, or via the phone for public comment.

Written Comments

Devon Kajatt confirmed that no written comments were received.

Confirmation of Posting

Devon Kajatt confirmed that notice was provided for this meeting pursuant to Nevada's Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.020, and confirmation of posting was received. The Commission was in compliance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

Roll Call

- Commissioner Chair Kenny – Present
- Commissioner Vice-Chair Frederick – Present
- Commissioner Abe – Absent (excused)
- Commissioner Kirner – Present
- Commissioner Mikhail – Absent (excused)
- Commissioner Ponder – Absent (excused)
- Commissioner Todtman – Present
- Commissioner Devine- Absent (excused)

Administrator Kelly Wuest took roll verbally. Quorum was confirmed.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – motion to approve adoption of Agenda for August 5, 2026.

Second: Commissioner Kirner.

Discussion: None.

Results: The agenda was adopted.

Approval of May 27, 2026, Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Kenny– motion to approve the minutes for the May 27, 2026, meeting.
Second: Commissioner Kirner.
Discussion: None.
Results: The motion carried.

Adoption of 2027 Meeting Dates

Motion: Commissioner Kenny– motion to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2027.
Second: Commissioner Kirner.
Discussion: None.
Results: The motion carried.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Kelly Wuest gave the Administrator's Report as submitted and reported that the agency has completed all work related to budget preparation ahead of the 2027 Legislative Session. Administrator Wuest will continue to provide performance measures and any other requested information as Session approaches.

As of June 30, 2026, the Student Indemnification Fund balance was \$271,165. The agency will continue to collect fees until the balance in the account reaches \$750,000. Administrator Wuest believes CPE will reach this point sometime between October and December 2028, but this could occur sooner based off student enrollment numbers and interest on the account. The account earns more interest as its balance increases, which could eventually shave off an entire quarter of fees for CPE licensees. Related to CPE's quarterly reports, Administrator Wuest shared that 26 institutions were still unreported and that CPE's student count for the quarter was 9,201 students.

The Commission on Postsecondary Education had a projected revenue of \$219,500 for Fiscal Year 2026, but ended the year with \$237,434 in revenue, an 8.2 percent increase over the prior year. Administrator Wuest testified that she believed the increase was due, in part, to an increase in the number of applications for licensure compared to recent years. The agency saw increases in both limited scope and full license applications.

Administrator Wuest noted that CPE had one new school open and two schools close over the last quarter. Nova Southeastern University opened with an anesthesiologist assistant program that was years in the making. Nova Southeastern was able to start a class almost immediately, as they had recruited for the school nationally.

DeVry University and Assist to Succeed Minden both closed their doors in the fourth quarter. DeVry closed its doors in June 2026 after completing a three-year teach out plan. The university is reverting back to its primary campus in Illinois, and any remaining national programs will be handled online as part of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). Assist to Succeed Minden had not had students in the last two years. While CPE is still waiting for the institution's final paperwork, the agency has officially marked them as closed.

Administrator Wuest provided several updates related to CPE's participation in the Veterans Affairs (VA) programs. The Commission on Postsecondary Education held its annual School Certifying Official (SCO) conference on June 3, 2026, at Las Vegas College. Administrator Wuest thanked CEO and President Peter Mikhail, along with his staff, for hosting. Approximately 40 SCOs attended the event, which included speakers from Debt Management and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs who talked about services available for veterans in our state. Attendees also discussed the many changes coming to VA benefit programs in upcoming months.

Administrator Wuest updated the Commission on CPE's supervisory visits conducted in 2026. At the end of the last quarter CPE completed 15 of its 16 supervisory visits, but as of the meeting the agency concluded all 16 visits. The agency has not had any returned approvals or late submissions this year, and as of August 5, 2026, has completed 100 percent of its VA deliverables.

Administrator Wuest explained that as of August 1, 2026, high schools are no longer eligible to participate in the VA education program. Chapter 35 of Title 38 of the United States Code, which covers transfer of entitlement, allowed high school students to use this benefit. This change occurred about

four years ago in law but took until now for the VA to implement it, and Administrator Wuest explained that CPE staff were actively working to remove VA approvals from the 20 high schools that had participated.

The Commission on Postsecondary Education saw an increase in student complaints over the last quarter. Two institutions received multiple complaints, both of which were placed under “show cause” for programmatic issues on which students filed the complaints. The complaints received were complicated and CPE has been working with the Accrediting Bureau of Health and Education Schools (ABHES) to resolve the complaints. Administrator Wuest stated that there may be agenda items related to the complaints in upcoming Commission hearings, as CPE staff are ready to start making determinations.

In addition to these two institutions, CPE has continued to receive other student complaints as well. Agency staff reported receiving more AI-generated complaints in the last quarter, as well as complaints related to financial aid and student loans. Administrator Wuest believed this was caused by reported staffing shortages at the U.S. Department of Education, because CPE usually sees an uptick in calls when students are unable to reach anyone at the federal level.

Applicants for Consideration of Initial Provisional Licensure

Advanced Career Institute

Testified: David Bither, President; and Dr. Sharon Conn, Academic Director.

Discussion: Commissioner Kenny inquired about the financial loss Advanced Career Institute reported in 2024. He wanted to know what happened that year, where the institution finished at the end of 2025, and what Advanced Career Institute believes it is going in 2026. Mr. Bither explained that the institution opened a truck driving school in Nevada in 2020 that was initially funded with cash, but later began partnering with the Department of Education, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR) via the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). David Bither explained that the institution’s funding sources shifted in 2024, which led to its financial loss that year. Mr. Bither explained that since then, Advanced Career Institute has diversified its revenue streams through a combination of private and workforce funding. Additionally, the institution is working to diversify not only its revenue streams, but also the types of programs it offers to students. The institution reported a net profit in 2025 and is on track to do the same this year.

Commissioner Kenny noted that Advanced Career Institute’s new programs are very different from its trucking programs and wanted to know what the institution is doing to forge new relationships with new employers in these different industries. David Bither responded that, as the institution is already operating in California, they have been able to compile some great research into Nevada’s employer markets. The institution already has dedicated staff who are working with local employers to build relationships and set up externship opportunities. Dr. Sharon Conn added to this, stating that institution staff have been in contact with local advisory boards related to job placement. Dr. Conn further stated that Advanced Career Institute has always been in compliance with placement, graduation, and completion rates in the states in which they currently operate. Finally, Dr. Conn stated she has devoted a lot of time searching for, and interviewing, highly qualified candidates with impressive resumes for the new programs the institution plans to bring to Nevada.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – A 12-month provisional license be granted to Advanced Career Institute to offer Information Technology Professional, Cybersecurity Professional, and Accounting Professional contingent upon staffing.

Second: Commissioner Todtman.

Results: Unanimous; motion carried.

American Lineman School

Testified: Mike Hennesey, President and Founder.

Discussion: Commissioner Kenny noted that American Lineman School's model seems to be geared towards apprenticeship programs and wanted to know what the institution is doing to ensure graduates are ready to fill apprenticeship positions. Mike Hennesey replied that American Lineman School has developed strong working relationships with several companies like California's Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) and NV Energy, which have given the institution great insight into how various apprenticeship programs are structured. Additionally, Mr. Hennesey added that success rates for graduates of pre-apprenticeship programs, such as his own, average approximately 95 percent, while graduates of average apprenticeship programs see success rates around 50 percent.

Mr. Hennesey credited the Analyze, Design, Develop, Implement, and Evaluate (ADDIE) Model for education to incorporate novel and successful means of preparing graduates for roles in the electrical industry. Some of the insights gleaned from using the ADDIE Model include incorporating both online and in-person learning modalities along with long training sessions – sometimes up to 12 hours per day – that mirror the actual working conditions lineman face on the job. These conditions provide students with a realistic idea of the work they will do upon graduation and placement, allowing students to determine if the line of work is a good fit before they are placed in an apprenticeship program. The extended training sessions will allow the institution to offer programs on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday allowing students to complete training without having to take time off from work.

Commissioner Kirner inquired about American Lineman School's projected annual student count, which was listed at 260 students per year. He wanted to know if this was an accurate estimate, or if there is really so much turnover in the industry that graduates will be able to find work. Mike Hennesey explained that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that, in the coming years, there will be 10,000 entry level jobs available in the electrical industry. Additionally, the industry is expected to see a 30 to 35 percent retirement rate within the next 5 years and electrical infrastructure in the United States is out-of-date and inadequate for society's modern needs. Mr. Hennesey continued while only 800 miles of electrical line have been built in the last few years, a total of 56,000 miles of new electrical lines are needed by 2030. The lack of a trained workforce is the bottleneck in the process. Mr. Hennesey closed by stating that 260 students is an accurate prediction, as the industry is expected to see more than seven percent growth in entry level positions in coming years.

Motion: Commissioner Kirner – A 12-month provisional license be granted to American Lineman School to offer Climbing and a Utility Worker Program contingent upon receipt of surety bond in the amount of \$270,000, facility, curriculum review and personnel information.

Second: Commissioner Frederick.

Results: Unanimous; motion carried.

CE by Matthew

Testified: Matthew Kalb, Owner. Mr. Kalb has been licensed as a real estate broker in Nevada since 2004 and was first licensed in Maryland in 1984. He testified that he began teaching real estate courses for Key Realty approximately ten years ago, found he enjoyed the work, and decided to open his own school. He currently offers continuing education courses for licensees.

Discussion: Commissioner Kenny wanted to know about the institution's asynchronous learning model and wanted to know if the school plans to use commercially available Learning Management System (LMS) software or another product developed in-house. Mr. Kalb stated that the institution has gone through several different iterations of software and LMS, but that CE by Matthew also built out its own website. Currently, the school's new website is run through Shopify, its LMS is from Acadio LMS, and the institution also maintains a relationship with textbook publisher Performance Programs Company.

Commissioner Kenny wanted to know who will be responsible for daily behind-the-scenes operations at CE by Matthew. Mr. Kalb responded has two employees on staff who assist with Information Technology (IT), public relations, and answering phones. Mr. Kalb personally delivers his six core classes to students, either via Zoom or in person.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – A 12-month provisional license be granted to CE by Matthew to offer the Nevada 120-hours Real Estate Salesperson; Real Estate Principles; Real Estate Law and Contracts; and Agency course; contingent upon receipt of surety bond in the amount of \$10,000, curriculum approval from the Nevada Real Estate Division, facility and personnel review.

Second: Commissioner Frederick.

Results: Unanimous; motion carried.

Expertise Cosmetology Institute

Testified: Gwen Braimoh, Co-Founder; and Kenneth Rollins, Program Director. Gwen Braimoh introduced herself and the institution, which has been operating in Las Vegas as a cosmetology school since 2001. The institution expanded to add barbering in 2019, and today the school is looking to expand into construction readiness, as well. Ms. Braimoh testified that the ultimate goal of Expertise Cosmetology Institute is to become not just a cosmetology, barbering, and construction school, but a career center for the local community.

Discussion: Commissioner Kenny wanted to know how the institution intends to recruit students. Ms. Braimoh shared that she has two admissions people on staff at the institution who work with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and that the school engages in a lot of community outreach. Additionally, Expertise Cosmetology Institute runs the New Path Cosmetology Program located inside the Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center in Las Vegas. This program seeks to take people who are interested in a trade and prepare them so that, when they are released, they can be trained in a new career. Gwen Braimoh concluded by saying the institution also engages with local high schools and participates in career fairs to drive student interest.

Commissioner Kenny inquired if the main objective of the institution is to prepare students for construction apprenticeships. Kenneth Rollins explained that, yes, that is the goal. Businesses in and around the Strip are currently hiring people off the street for these jobs, but there is a very low success rate for people recruited this way. Expertise Cosmetology would like to prepare individuals for construction work, weeding out those individuals who cannot successfully complete the program. The institution plans to refer successful graduates to local union jobs, and students who struggle a bit more to non-union work where they can continue to gain the experience which will qualify them for union jobs in the future.

Commissioner Kirner wanted to know how the institution plans to market itself to prospective students, given that the word "cosmetology" is included in its name and the fact that cosmetology and construction are very different fields. He also wanted to know if United States citizenship is required to participate in the program. Kenneth Rollins replied that the school is taking a multipronged approach to its marketing and recruiting efforts: targeting local youth and the unemployed populations, marketing to people whose entry level jobs will likely be replaced by artificial intelligence (AI), reaching out to incarcerated individuals who are interested in entering the construction industry upon reentry, and working with local churches to spread the word about new job opportunities. Mr. Rollins confirmed that U.S. citizenship is a requirement to participate.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – A 12-month provisional license be granted to Expertise Cosmetology Institute, to offer a Construction Readiness Program contingent upon facility information, staffing, and surety in the amount of \$86,000.

Second: Commissioner Kirner.

Results: Unanimous; motion carried.

Nevada's Finest Properties

Testified: Amy Groves, Director; and Anita Gomez, Academic Director.

Discussion: Amy Groves testified that, until about 20 years ago, an occupational license was not required for Homeowner Association Managers and, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry has witnessed massive turnover. Ms. Groves and Anita Gomez felt they could do a better job offering instruction for HOA managers and set out to develop a different learning model for prospective students. Ms. Groves stated there is a real need for additional licensees in the industry, as Las Vegas currently has approximately 4,000 active HOAs but only about 200 actively working and licensed HOA managers. The institution seeks to change this by adding up to 100 licensees in the Las Vegas area per year.

Motion: Commissioner Kenny – A 12-month provisional license be granted to Nevada's Finest Properties to offer the Community Association Manager (CAM) Pre-Licensing course contingent upon receipt of surety bond in the amount of \$40,000, facility and personnel review.

Second: Commissioner Kirner.

Results: Unanimous; motion carried.

Public Comments

Commissioner Kenny confirmed no one was physically present in the Zoom meeting, or on the phone for public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Kenny at 10:08 a.m.