MEDIA FACT SHEET | NOVEMBER 2026

Western Nevada College Recognized Among America's Best Community Colleges for 2027

TIME and Statista recognized 250 community colleges nationwide. WNC and Great Basin College in Elko—approximately 4½ hours east of Carson City—are Nevada's two honorees. TIME recognition

THE NORTHERN NEVADA STORY

- **Record-setting student success.** WNC celebrated a record **686 graduates earning 851 degrees and certificates** in 2026. President J. Kyle Dalpe's philosophy: "It's not just about getting students in the door, it's about walking them through it and across the stage." National media coverage

- **Training nurses where Nevada needs them.** With Nevada reporting approximately **8 nurses per 1,000 residents versus 12 nationally** (WNC figures cited by KOLO), WNC is responding with rural nursing expansions in **Fallon and Minden**. Fallon plans to triple first-year nursing capacity from 8 to 24; a **$4.4 million** federal grant supports new Douglas Campus simulation and clinical training space—helping students train and ultimately work closer to home. Nursing shortage / KOLO | Rural expansion / NNBW

- **Industry partnerships driving Nevada's next economy.** WNC delivers **Tesla START** advanced manufacturing training, developed **battery-recycling workforce education with Redwood Materials**, and is helping launch an **advanced manufacturing training center in Fernley's Victory Logistics District**—connecting education directly to high-demand jobs. Tesla | Redwood Materials | Fernley

- **High school students graduating with college degrees.** A record **242 Jump Start graduates** earned associate degrees while finishing high school in 2026. WNC's dual-enrollment work also received a 2026 Rural Community College Alliance award. Award coverage

- **An affordable path to a degree.** In WICHE's 2025–26 published resident tuition-and-fees comparison, WNC was **second-lowest-cost among Nevada's four community colleges**, below TMCC and CSN. For 2026–27, WNC's lower-division base registration fee is **$136.25 per credit** versus $312.75 at UNR and UNLV—about **56% less** before other fees. WICHE comparison

- **Rural access and adult opportunity.** Serving Carson City, Fallon, Douglas and surrounding rural communities, WNC brings workforce training, flexible coursework and career pathways closer to working adults, returning students and regional employers. Workforce programs

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Note: TIME's list recognizes 250 institutions without assigning numerical ranks. Nursing comparison is attributed to WNC as reported by KOLO; nurse counts vary by definition. Tuition comparisons use specified years and fee categories.