

City of Henderson to set Nevada record for medical education *Touro University Nevada's 2008 graduation class to include largest medical school graduating class in state's history*

HENDERSON, Nev. – May is the month of graduation ceremonies and thousands of students valley-wide look onward to their futures. But this year a group of 76 graduates will be making history as the largest medical school graduating class in the history of the state.

The first graduating class of Touro University-Nevada's College of Osteopathic Medicine will also be the state's largest. Of the graduates, 18 will be serving residencies with local hospitals in Las Vegas.

"The fact that so many outstanding new physicians will stay in state is terrific news for Nevada," said Dr. Mitchell Forman, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. "Nevada has consistently ranked near the bottom nationally in its ratio of physicians to population. It's been well-established that a very high percentage of doctors end up practicing in the communities where they do their residencies. And even as residents, these physicians will help to address many of the health care shortages in our state."

Touro University is but one of the many higher education schools that have made Henderson their home. Over the past decade, the City of Henderson's Economic Development Division has aggressively targeted post secondary education providers. In today's knowledge-driven economy, labor force skills are a key business climate factor. Henderson's focus on building its higher educational system has been a strong fit for companies conducting research and development and has resulted in the

city now being home to 14 higher education institutions supplying the local workforce with thousands of new professionals each year.

"The local economy has really matured from even just a decade ago," said Bob Cooper, manager of Henderson's Economic Development Division.

"This is no longer just a tourist region, but rather has become a hotspot of opportunity for businesses and professionals alike. And healthcare has especially seen great partnerships possible with the healthcare demands of Southern Nevada."

Touro University-Nevada first opened its doors in 2004 and has since grown from its initial count of 78 students to 1,200, as well as having expanded its facility for the third time with March's unveiling of the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, a patient clinic and clinical research center, and modern, interactive learning facilities for university students and faculty researchers.

All of this will serve to enhance the university's ability to fulfill the state's demand for healthcare professionals.

"One of the primary motivations in starting Touro University-Nevada was to be a partner in addressing Nevada's health care needs," said Dr. Michael Harter, senior provost and chief executive officer for Touro's western division. "This graduation is a great example of how community collaboration can bring about direct results."

Those results will mean more care for an expanding Southern Nevada region.

Henderson, which borders Las Vegas, is Nevada's second largest city, trailing only Las Vegas. With an estimated population of more than 240,000 in 2006, it would make it the 14th largest city in the state of California, being larger than such cities as Irvine, Glendale and San Bernardino.

Some now view Henderson, with its central location both on the West Coast and within Southern Nevada, as a part of the Southern California marketplace already.

"Henderson has not only emerged as a leading location for businesses to expand to, but it has also emerged as a leading place for companies to have their headquarters located," Cooper said. "With a healthy economy, favorable tax rates – both personal and business – and a high quality of living, we like to say that Henderson is the Las Vegas Valley address for business success. And when we have such respected and successful companies expanding here, it validates that."

For more information on the City of Henderson's Economic Development Division, call (702) 267-1650.