

**Great Basin College**  
**Application for Emeritus Status**

Application Date: 3-20-20

Emeritus Status for: DR. GRETCHEN SKIVINGTON

Department: ARTS & LETTERS

Years of service: 18

Recommended by:  Applicant  Colleague(s): LYNETTE MACFARLAN  
PATRICIA FOX, STEPHEN THERIACT

**PART I: Applicant provide the following information**

Completion and submission of the application packet is the responsibility of the applicant.

**Application Packet**

1. Please attach a current curriculum vita with this application.
2. In no more than two pages:
  - a. Describe your outstanding professional performance and recognition that exemplifies excellence and meritorious performance.
  - b. Describe your continued professional growth at GBC.
  - c. Describe your service to GBC and the communities it serves.
  - d. Describe any other activities and awards.
3. Attach two letters of recommendation from colleagues within or outside of the GBC community.
4. Provide a brief summary of approximately 100 words of your career highlights for use during recognition ceremonies.

**\*\*Note: Incomplete packets will not be considered.** Applicants are reminded that each employee may apply for consideration of Emeritus status one time only.

**PART II: Applicant provide the following summary information**

Name: GRETCHEN SKIVINGTON Home Phone No.: 775-777-1534 h, 775-299-9789 c.

Home Address: 440 CORRAL LN # 5 SPRING CREEK

Highest Earned Degree: PhD Institution and Year: 2000 UC-DAVIS

Department and Campus location: ARTS & LETTERS GBC-ELKO

Years of full-time service to the institution: 18 Actual Retirement Date: 6-30-20

Exact title as agreed upon by the unit and the faculty/professional member:

PROFESSOR OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

**NOTE:** This is the title that will appear on the award certificate and in publications such as the college catalog if Emeritus status is granted. (Options: Contract title at time of retirement, highest rank during service, etc.)

Emeritus Faculty/Professional may elect to maintain their college e-mail account and may continue to serve the college in an adjunct or volunteer capacity, therefore, be listed in the Great Basin College directory. Please indicate your preferences below:

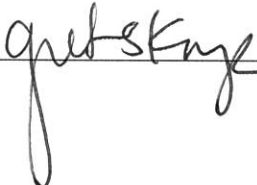
I wish to maintain my Great Basin College e-mail account. My e-mail address is:

gretchen.skivington@gbcnv.edu

I wish to continue to be listed in the GBC on-line and print directories. My information is as follows:

E-mail same

I do not wish to maintain an e-mail account or be listed in the directories.

Applicant's signature/date:  3-20-20

**PART III: For Personnel Committee and Human Resources use only**  
**Return this form to the Personnel Committee**

Meets requirements for years of service for Emeritus Status

Does not meet requirements for years of service for Emeritus Status

17y 10m Number of years of service applied to Emeritus

  
(Human Resources Department Signature)

The candidate has satisfied the requirements for Emeritus

The candidate has not satisfied the requirements for Emeritus

  
(Supervising Vice President Signature)

Personnel Committee Decision:

Recommended

Not Recommended

Comments:

unanimously recommended per phone call with  
Clint Kelley 3/26/2020

Approval by President (Signature)

Date

Dr. Gretchen Skivington

Summary:

Dr. Gretchen Skivington has contributed broadly to education for four decades since first attending *her* first college NNCC, Northeastern Nevada Community College in 1973 which would become GBC at which she would serve as an adjunct and full-time instructor for over four decades.

**Highlights** include establishment of the Great Basin Indian Archives and Virtual Humanities Center, Spanish Interpreter Translator Certificate, Hispanic Student Support Group, GBC Foreign Film Festival, Nevada Arts Council Fiction Fellow 2008, 2015.

**Awards:** Phi Beta Kappa, UCB, magna cum laude UCD, Fulbright and Rockefeller fellowships, Nevada Arts Council Fellow, national recognition--So. Poverty Law Center

**Community Volunteer:** WFC, AYSO, prep sports teams, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Little League Snack Bar, Highland Manor, Horizon Hospice, Ruby Mountain Resource Enter, ECSD forensics, SCHS basketball-volleyball-track-cross country

**GRETCHEN SKIVINGTON, PhD**

440 Corral Lane #5  
Spring Creek, NV. 89815  
(775)777-1534

EDUCATION:

<b>University of California-Berkeley</b>	English: BA, magna cum laude, PBK	1978
<b>University of Nevada-Reno</b>	Spanish/ French: MA, summa cum laude Basque Studies, minor	1984
<b>University of California-Davis</b>	Comparative Literature, PhD Summa cum laude	2000

COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

<b>Great Basin College</b>	English, Spanish (adjunct)	1980s
	English, Spanish, French, Speech (full-time)	1997-2020
	Critical Thinking	2013-2020
<b>University of California-Davis</b>	Comparative Literature	1994-96
<b>University of Nevada-Reno</b>	Spanish 101-102	1990-94

HONORS & AWARDS:

<b>National Merit Scholar Semifinalist</b>	Elko High School	1974
<b>Phi Beta Kappa (UC-Berkeley)</b>		1978
<b>Outstanding Graduate Paper UNR</b>		1984
<b>Fulbright Foundation Fellowship</b>		1987-88
<b>Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship</b>		1989-90
<b>University of California Humanities Scholar</b>		1998-99
<b>Nevada Arts Council Fellow-Fiction</b>		2006
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place CBS/UNR Fiction Contest</b>		2013
<b>Certificate "Wall of Tolerance" –So. Poverty Law Center</b>		2016

CERTIFICATIONS:

Spanish Interpreter/Translator  
Nevada 6-12 Teaching Certificate: Social Studies, Spanish, French, English

3-20-20

Emerita Application: Dr. Gretchen Skivington

Outstanding Professional Performance and Recognition:

Spanish Interpreter Translator Certificate

Latinos Unidos – Hispanic Student Support Group

GBC Foreign Film Festival

**Virtual Humanities Center:** Great Basin Archives, Basque Exhibit, Elko Basque oral histories

**Veteran's Resource Center:** INT 339 "War and Memory" Veterans' archives

**Library of Congress**

**Western Folklife Center** = collaborative 2018-2020

**Writing Workshops:** GBC, WFC, Elko, White Pine & Humboldt Libraries

**Nevada Arts Council Fiction Fellow:** 2008, 2014

**Exhibits, Presentations, Papers:** MLA/WLA conventions, CCHC, ACTFL, Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Western Writers conventions

Professional Growth & Service to Community:

Served as Humanities and Fine Arts & Humanities chair

**Committees:** Academic Standards, ACE, ICE, Library, Staff Safety, Comp & Benefits, Department Chairs, Distance Education, VHC, Adjunct Faculty

Development and management of **Spanish Interpreter Translator Certificate**, 10 yrs

**Volunteer:** Western Folklife Center, AYSO coach, Pop Warner, Little League, SCES, SCMS, SCHS tutor, Highland Manor, Horizon Hospice, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Ruby Mountain Resource Center, ECSD Forensics judge

**George Skivington Veterans' Housing Scholarship:** 2016-2020

January 7, 2020

Dear Personnel Committee Members:

It has been my intent to write a reference letter for Dr. Gretchen Skivington that will adequately pay tribute to her authenticity, work ethic, moral fortitude, and pure graciousness. I have tried my own patience with many failed attempts. Paying homage to my colleague, mentor, and friend has been one of the most difficult tasks I have ever undertaken. I have found it difficult to capture, in words, the depth of my respect and appreciation for all that Dr. Skivington has contributed to her colleagues, her college, and her students. Thus, I will be candid and forthright in stating that Dr. Skivington's words of wisdom, intellect, and steadfast approach to her profession will be greatly missed upon her retirement, yet her legacy and gifts will be remembered for years to come.

During the past twenty-two years, Dr. Skivington has contributed, beyond measure, to the betterment of her department and college through quality teaching, program development, interactions with colleagues and students, institutional service, and scholarship. She has served on an array of committees over the years to include Academic Standards, ACE, ICE, Faculty Staff Safety, Library, Compensation & Benefits, Department Chairs, and Distance Education. Dr. Skivington's insight has been instrumental in building Great Basin College's infrastructure as we know it today.

Beyond teaching, Dr. Skivington also represented GBC in a broader capacity with her contributions to the Great Basin Indian Archives, Cowboy Poetry, Veterans Resource Center, Northeastern Nevada Museum, and the French Foreign Film Festival. With her instinctive aptitude and innate ability to write, Dr. Skivington paid homage to her cultural upbringing by commemorating the Basque diaspora in the Elko area through her eloquent writing of, "Echevarria" which was published in 2017 with a second novel, "Border Line" soon to make its debut in 2020.

Before I close, I felt that it was very important to acknowledge Dr. Skivington's development of the *Spanish Interpreter Translator Certificate*. This program was a vivid acknowledgement of the growing need to provide schools and businesses with certified professionals to speak, read, and write at an advanced level. This Certificate honored not only those who became interpreters, but also numerous individuals who needed communicative support. This is yet one more example of how Dr. Skivington changes lives for the better.

Dr. Skivington is the most intriguing professional that I have had the opportunity to work with. Over the last twenty-two years, she has contributed to an atmosphere of purposeful stewardship, fairness, and camaraderie at Great Basin College. It is evident that Dr. Skivington has demonstrated distinguished and long-term achievement. I earnestly encourage the Personnel Committee to consider Dr. Gretchen Skivington for Emeritus status at Great Basin College.

Sincerely,



Lynette Macfarlan, MA. Edu.



December 7, 2019

GBC Personnel Committee  
1500 College Parkway  
Elko, Nevada 89801

Re: Emeritus Status Recommendation

Dear Personnel Committee,

I am most pleased to offer the following letter of recommendation and support for Dr. Gretchen Skivington for Emeritus status at Great Basin College. I have had the distinct pleasure at GBC, to engage with Dr. Skivington on a regular basis as a trusted colleague during our time together and equally important, as a trusted friend. I found her to be a student centric, intelligent faculty member, and a passionate advocate for higher education.

Dr. Skivington has a wonderful combination of skill sets that fit well with the requirements for Emeritus status at the college with extensive successful teaching experience at the post-secondary levels. It must be also noted that Dr. Skivington is a published author with her historical novel "*Echevarria*" available through the UNR Press, and a pending memoir titled "*Border Line*". Other highly notable successes are her recent work with Library of Congress and the VRC, the generation of Basque local histories for the VHC, and a founding member of the Great Basin Indian Archives (GBIA).

She has steadily maintained membership in multiple national organizations and performed extensive volunteer work throughout the Elko area with the museum, sports and music teams, the Western Folklife Center, and culminated her altruist giving by creating a scholarship for the Veterans Resource Center – the GBC Gretchen Skivington Scholarship. There are many more positive impacts that Dr. Skivington has made while a member of the GBC committee, too many to list here.

She possesses impeccable personal and professional integrity. She is a leader who always faces challenges with enthusiasm rather than trepidation and can be counted on to do the right thing even though we all know that is not always the easiest thing to do. Dr. Skivington's creation of the





Spanish Interpreter Translator Certification Program at the college will be a legacy for decades to come providing benefits to our community members and opportunities for many to pursue rewarding career paths.

Dr. Skivington always knew the key to her happiness was working with students to give them the tools for a better future, she has done this selflessly. I highly endorse her consideration by the Committee for Emeritus status. She is an institutional member we can all be proud of today and one who deserves to be on the Wall of Honor in Berg Hall!. I am readily available should you desire additional discussion or edification of Dr. Skivington's value to Great Basin College and our community at large.

Warm Regards,

Stephen J. Theriault, MBA  
GBC Professor of Management and Marketing  
1500 College Parkway  
Elko, Nevada, 89801  
(775) 220-5582  
[Stephen.theriault@gbcnv.edu](mailto:Stephen.theriault@gbcnv.edu)

To: Personnel Committee  
From: Patty Fox, Fine Arts Professor Emeritus  
RE: Dr. Skivington's emeritus application  
DATE: December 7, 2019

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Gretchen Skivington's application for emeritus status at Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada. Dr. Skivington has worked at Great Basin College for the past 20 years and I have been acquainted with her most of that time. Our office spaces were next door to each other for at least ten years so she is not only a colleague but also a loyal friend.

I know Dr. Skivington first and foremost as an educator. She was hired as a language instructor with the unique knowledge of the Basque language as well as French, Spanish and Latin. During her tenure at GBC she has also taught Philosophy, Communications, English and Humanities classes. This demonstrates her great versatility and broad spectrum of knowledge. She is passionate about education and demands rigorous engagement from her students. Not only is she very well read but also has a curious mind for a wide range of subjects.

Dr. Skivington established the Spanish Interpreter Translator Certificate Program giving the students an opportunity to use their skills in various career options. She has spent endless hours mentoring the students in the Hispanic community, encouraging scholarship opportunities and supporting local Hispanic families with first generation college students in their households. Her work as advisor of Latinos Inidos, a student mentor group, is commendable and invaluable in our small working class community.

Dr. Skivington's first historical novel Echeverria published through UNR/CBS Press is an imaginative novel, well received statewide and in the Basque community. She spoke about her literary work as a guest at the National Cowboy Poetry event and the WLA/MLA Convention. The novel is creative and demonstrates the dynamic relationship Dr. Skivington has developed in this community. She is currently in the process of completing her second book and memoir, Border Line through Texas A & M Press.

Dr. Skivington is deserving of the emeritus title and should be honored with this stature. I recommend this outstanding candidate to this committee.

Thank you,

Patty Fox, Prof of Fine Arts, Emeritus