

Janet Usinger
Candidate for Secretary

Candidate Statement

Janet Usinger has had several “lives” during her career at UNR. Each has lasted approximately 10 years, which makes her wonder what’s in store next! Beginning in 1981, she held a community-based faculty position as an Area Nutrition Specialist with Cooperative Extension. In 1989 she joined Cooperative Extension’s administrative team as Assistant and then Associate Director. Her time in administration also included a stint in Washington DC. In 2000 she rejoined the faculty, but this time with the College of Education. She still serves a university outreach role, but also advises graduate students, many whose academic interests focus on higher education.

Janet Usinger’s desire to serve on the State Board of the Nevada Faculty Alliance stems from both her professional experiences and academic pursuits. With a research interest in how individuals understand and make meaning of their role(s) in organizations, particularly educational organizations, the concepts of academic freedom, tenure, and scholarship hold an important place in her thinking. Beyond her own research, interaction with graduate students and faculty in Educational Leadership have entailed many hours of discussion about the current and future state of higher education in Nevada – not to mention the rest of the world. Again, central to many of the discussions are the issues currently being tackled by the Nevada Faculty Alliance. It would be an honor to serve on the State Board and take a more active role in addressing the challenges we will undoubtedly face in the near future.