

Nevada Student Alliance

Nevada State Senate Education Committee
Nevada State Assembly Education Committee

76th Legislative Session
February 16, 2011

Who We Are

The Nevada Student Alliance is a formal coalition of the ten student governments of the Nevada System of Higher Education



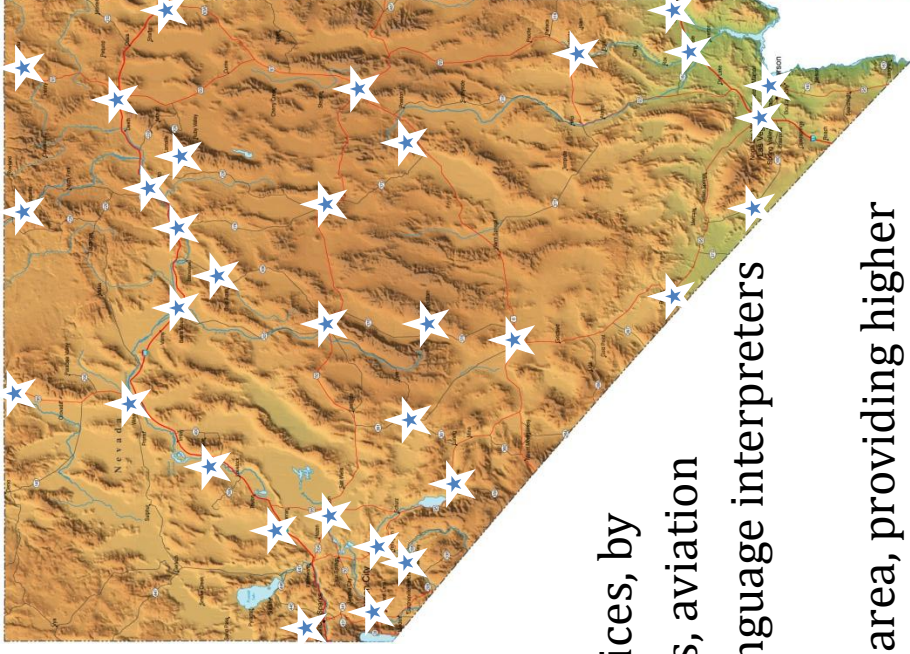
In total, the Nevada Student Alliance represents the collective interests of approximately 115,000 students across the NSHE

Who We Are

- Our institutions are as diverse as our student bodies
 - By geography
 - By specializations
 - By mission
- Service disparate missions and needs:
 - General education
 - Vocational training (and retraining)
 - Professional education
 - Research

Community Colleges

- The Community Colleges of the Nevada System of Higher Education are the access point to higher education for many Nevadans, building the foundation for future additional post-secondary education
- Community Colleges provide specialized training such as Fire, Police, Security and EMS
- Community Colleges fulfill niche needs for services, by offering courses such as adult literacy programs, aviation technology, automotive technology, and sign language interpreters
- Community Colleges service a wide geographic area, providing higher education opportunities to rural regions



Universities and State College

- The Universities and State College of the Nevada System of Higher Education provide training for the numerous careers that require a minimum of bachelor degree. Examples of particular importance to Nevada include:
 - Nursing
 - K-12 educators
 - Construction management
 - Finance
- An increasing number of careers require a minimum of 30 credits beyond a bachelor's degree:
 - Professional Engineers (recommended by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying)
 - Certified Public Accountant (41 states require 30+)

Professional Programs

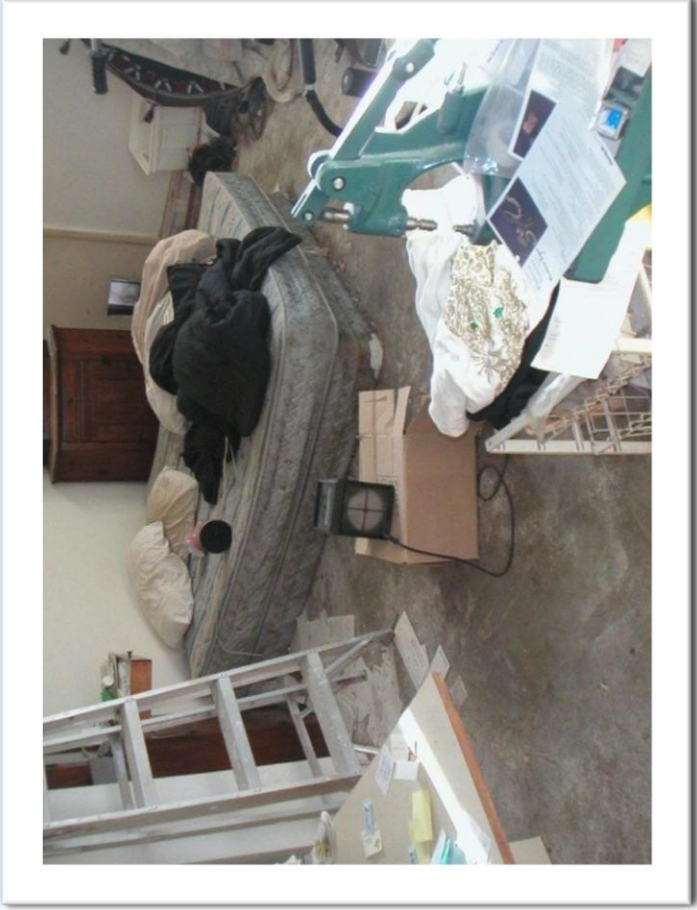
- Beyond instruction, the three professional programs of the Nevada System of Higher Education also serve the community.
- The **University of Nevada School of Medicine** has established clinics that care for rural residents areas across the state. Many patients are economically disadvantaged and otherwise have limited access to healthcare.
- The **UNLV School of Dental Medicine** provides heavily discounted dental care to the residents of Clark County. Patients are treated by dental students, under the close supervision of faculty. Patients have reported that without the School of Dental Medicine, they would be unable to afford even basic dental care.
- The **William S. Boyd School of Law** is home to the top-rated Conflict Resolution legal program in the country. The law school offers free legal clinics to the public, on subjects such as Bankruptcy, Foreclosure Mediation, and Family Law.

Why We Seek Education

Upward Mobility

Karen Levy is a native Las Vegas born to immigrant parents

“There were many days we could not afford to buy food, and we did not have access to healthcare or any government support because my mother neglected to file her taxes.”



Upward Mobility

- Karen has won several prestigious academic scholarships and awards:
 - Millennium Scholar
 - 2008 Barry Goldwater Scholarship Recipient
 - McNair Scholar
 - NSF/EPSCoR Undergraduate Research Award
 - Dean's Honor List, UNLV: 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009
- Karen graduated from UNLV in 2010 with a B.S in Biological Sciences, and a cumulative GPA of 3.97

“I have supported myself, entirely debt-free, through scholarships, financial aid, and conducting paid research throughout my school years and summers.”

“I was a Millennium Scholarship recipient, and I used every penny of it!”

Upward Mobility

Today, Karen is enrolled in the MD-PhD Program at the University of California, San Diego



College of Southern Nevada

Desert Research Institute

Great Basin College

Nevada State College

Truckee Meadows Community College

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

University of Nevada, Reno

Western Nevada College

Job Training & Retraining

- John Clark and Tara Burbank are a married couple with three children, who live in Clark County
- Both are former union construction workers unable to find work.
- John is enrolled at the College of Southern Nevada, studying Nursing
- Tara is enrolled at UNLV, studying Accounting
- This past holiday season, John found work cleaning pigeon feces off of roofs to buy presents for his children
- Formerly homeless at 16, ex-felon John sees education as his only path to a stable career.

“My family's entire future rests with the education opportunities in this state.”

The Education-Crime Connection

For some, education represents the only path to avoid, or to escape a life of crime

“Estimates uncover a robust and significant effect of high school graduation rates on arrests for both violent and property crimes, effects which are consistent with the magnitude of impacts observed for incarceration in the Census data. When arrests are separately analyzed by crime, the greatest impacts of graduation are associated with murder, assault, and motor vehicle theft.”

**The Effect of Education on Crime:
Evidence from Prison Inmates,
Arrests, and Self-Reports**

<http://www.econ.berkeley.edu/~moretti/lm46.pdf>

The Education-Crime Connection

“Theory suggests several ways that educational attainment may affect subsequent criminal decisions.

- ***First, schooling increases individual wage rates, thereby increasing the opportunity costs of crime.***
- ***Second, punishment is likely to be more costly for the more educated. Incarceration implies time out of the labor market, which is more costly for high earners.***
- ***Furthermore, previous studies estimate that the stigma of a criminal conviction is larger for white collar workers than blue collar workers... which implies that the negative effect of a conviction on earnings extend beyond the time spent in prison for more educated workers.***

The Effect of Education on Crime

The Cost of Incarceration

“The crime rate in Nevada is about 12% higher than the national average rate. Property crimes account for around 82.6% of the crime rate in Nevada which is 7% higher than the national rate. The remaining 19.8% are violent crimes and are about 37% higher than other states..”

National Institute of Corrections

<http://nicic.gov/features/statestats/?state=nv>

Average cost of incarceration per inmate in Nevada (2008): \$20,641

National Institute of Corrections

<http://nicic.gov/features/statestats/?state=nv>

Average cost of higher education per student in Nevada (2008): \$8,964

Benchmarks: WICHE Region 2010

<http://www.wiche.edu/info/benchmarks/2010/fig13.xls>

The Economics of Higher Education

Employers are Educated

“In 2002, 64 percent of the owners of respondent firms had at least some college education at the time they started or acquired ownership in their business; 23 percent had a bachelor’s degree; and 17 percent had a graduate degree.”

United State Census Bureau
<http://www.census.gov/econ/sbo/02/cbosof.html>

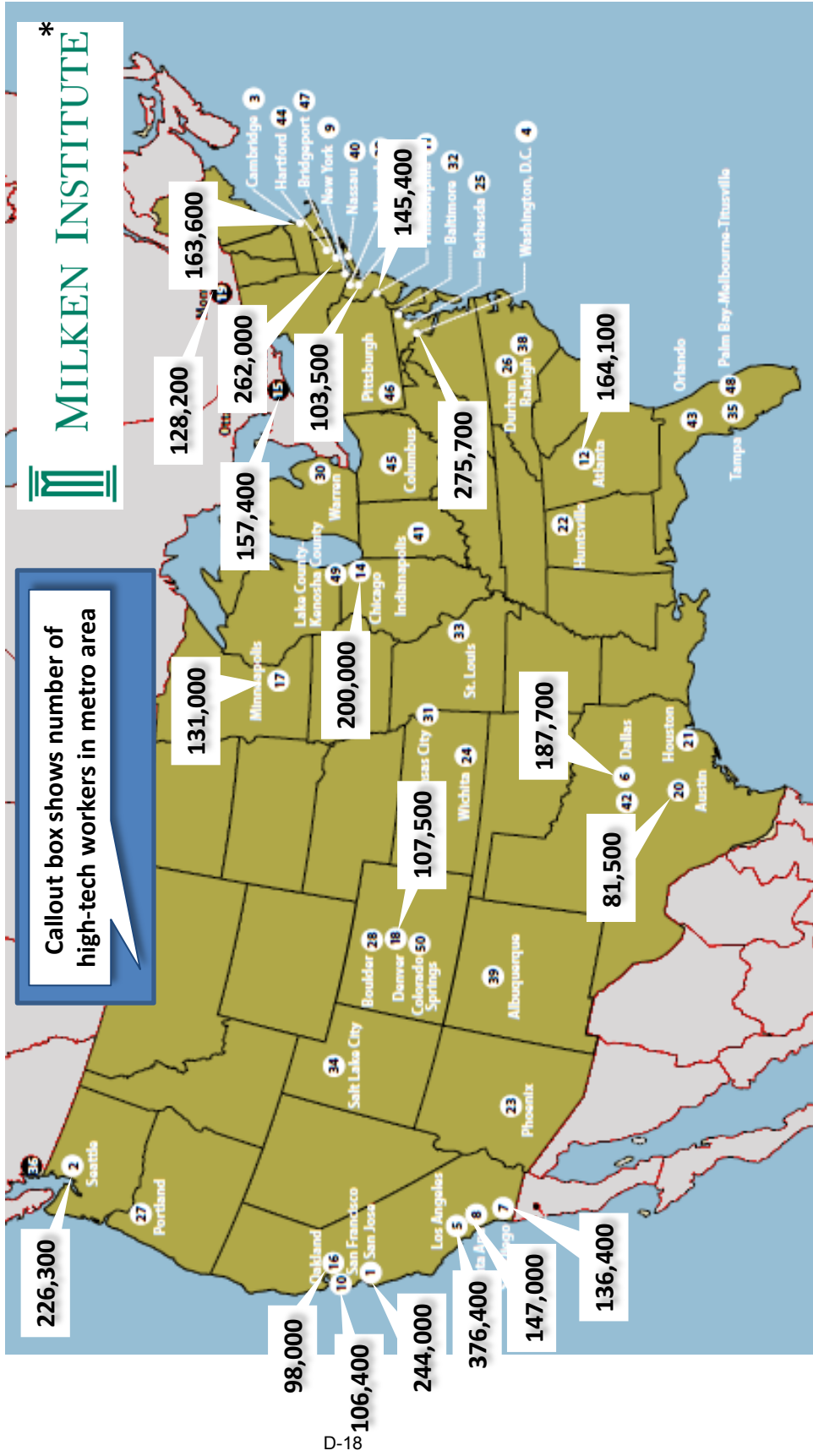
Top Performing High-Tech Clusters

“Communities with concentrations of knowledge-based industries have been able to create high-paying jobs, retain talented individuals, and attract firms from other locations, sparking additional growth. The current economic challenges we face will not leave high-tech sectors unscathed, but they will lead growth once again when we recover.”

The Milken Institute
Executive Summary

*North America’s High-Tech Economy,
The Geography of Knowledge-Based Industries*

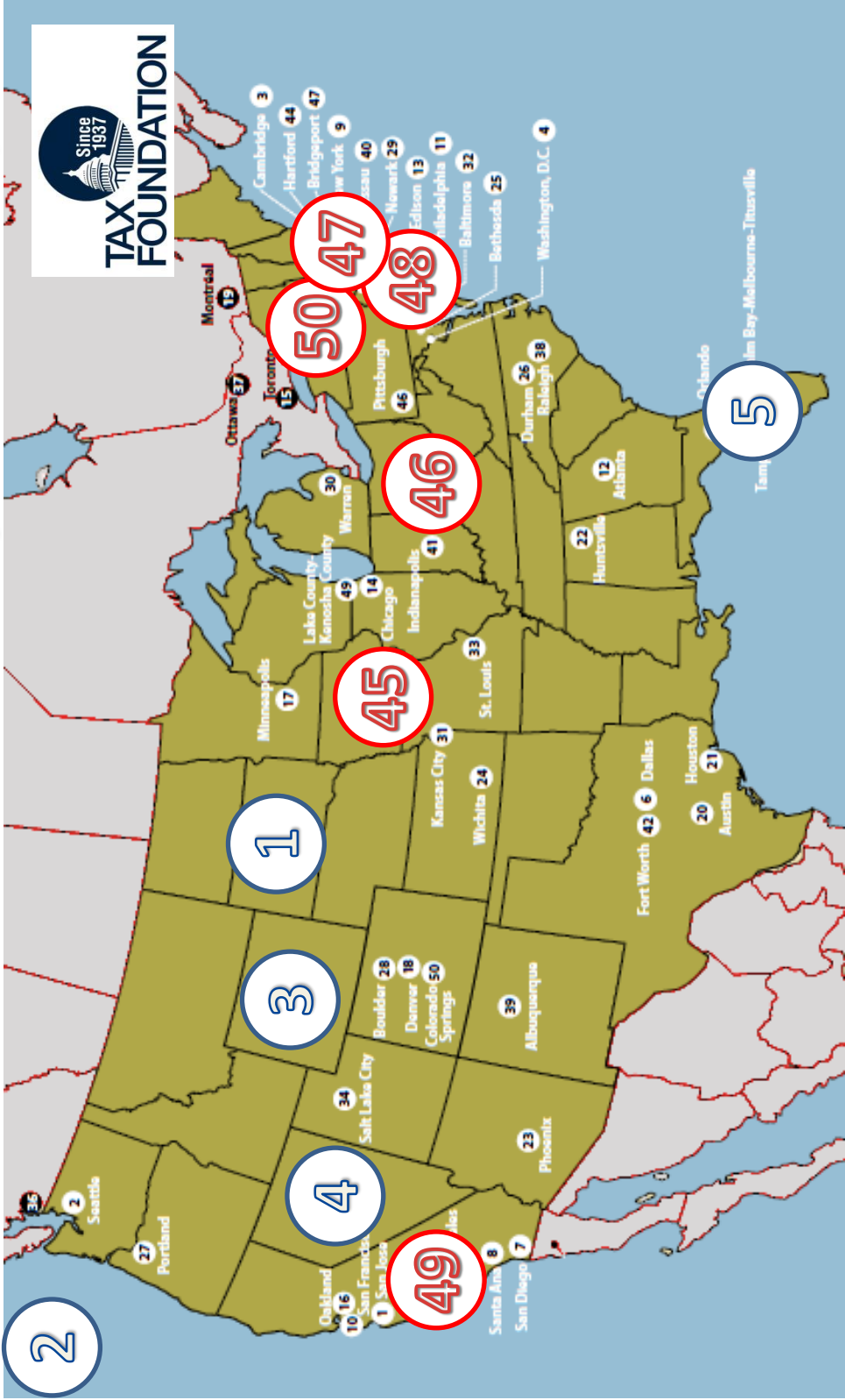
Top Performing High-Tech Clusters



* Executive Summary, North America's High-Tech Economy, The Geography of Knowledge-Based Industries

Best and Worst Business Tax Climates

The correlation between tax climates and the ability to attract businesses, is tenuous



The regions most able to attract high-tech industry, are ranked among the least tax favorable

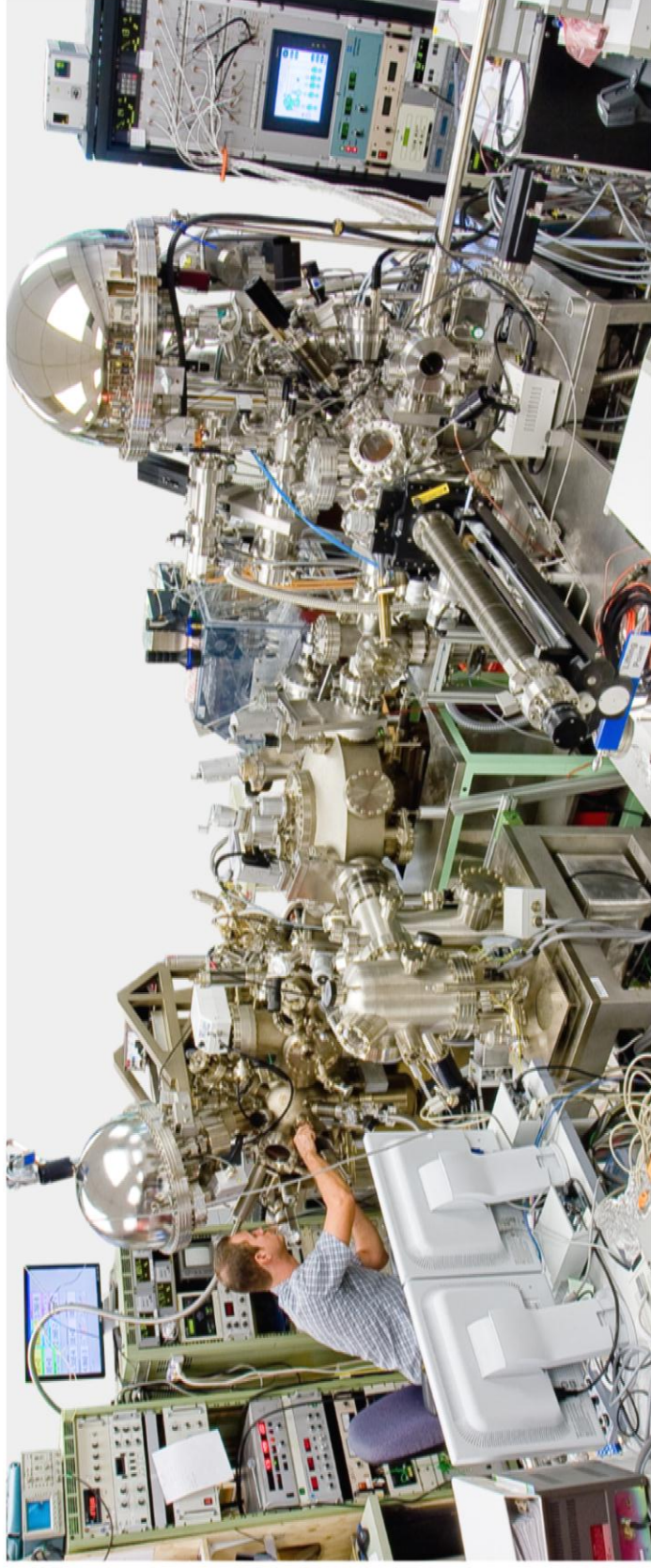
College of Southern Nevada	Desert Research Institute	Great Basin College	Nevada State College	Truckee Meadows Community College	University of Nevada, Las Vegas	University of Nevada, Reno	Western Nevada College
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Tier-1 Research Drives Economic Hubs

Data shows a strong correlation between tech hubs and university research programs



“Research Costs Money”



- The state’s contribution is rather small, but yields high returns
- Research activity from this startup costs can bring in outside research grants
 - NSHE has brought in \$267 million in research grants
 - These grants have an economic impact of \$534 million to the State of Nevada

The Impact of Research is Broad

Aside from the direct economic benefits, research has great value to Nevada, e.g.:

- **Education:** Research with the Dean's Future Scholars program helps us better understand how to help disadvantaged students succeed in college (UNR)
- **Nursing:** Miller's research on obesity focuses on treatment and prevention, examining both the health implications and emotional issues (UNLV)
- **Psychology:** Hutsler and Avino's development of a groundbreaking model helps researchers assess brain development in children with autism (UNR)
- **Tourism/Gaming:** Research at UNLV's College of Hotel Administration has direct implications for Nevada's tourism sector, focusing on topics including online marketing, technology for workforce training, and consumer behavior
- **Earth Sciences:** McDonald's research in collaboration with the U.S. Army helps keep our troops safe by forecasting terrain conditions for military operations (DRI).

Research Requires Investment

“To have truly competitive universities, research and development funding needs to increase. Nevada lags every state except Louisiana and Wyoming when measured by R&D funding relative to gross state product.

Boosting R&D spending to 1.5% of the state’s GSP from the current 0.6% would bring Nevada to the middle of the pack for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The current national average for R&D expenditures is 2.7% of GDP.”

**Nevada Vision Stakeholder Report
Page 44**



Our “Shared Sacrifice”

Impact of Past Budget Cuts

- 23 entire programs and departments have been eliminated in just the past year
- Every institution has seen tuitions and rise – as much as 63% over four years
- Access institutions such as the Community Colleges have implemented enrollment caps, turning away several thousands of students in recent years
 - At CSN alone, 5,300 students were turned away last semester
- “Non-essential” services such as the UNR Career Center, and CAEO Tutoring Program have been eliminated
- Courses are increasingly taught by adjunct faculty, part-time instructors, and graduate students

Impact of Cuts

- Larger class sizes and sections
 - Some students have reported that they have to sit on the floor
- Reduced campus services
 - Longer lines
 - Longer waits
- Reduced availability of classes needed for graduation

Shifting Financial Aid Composition

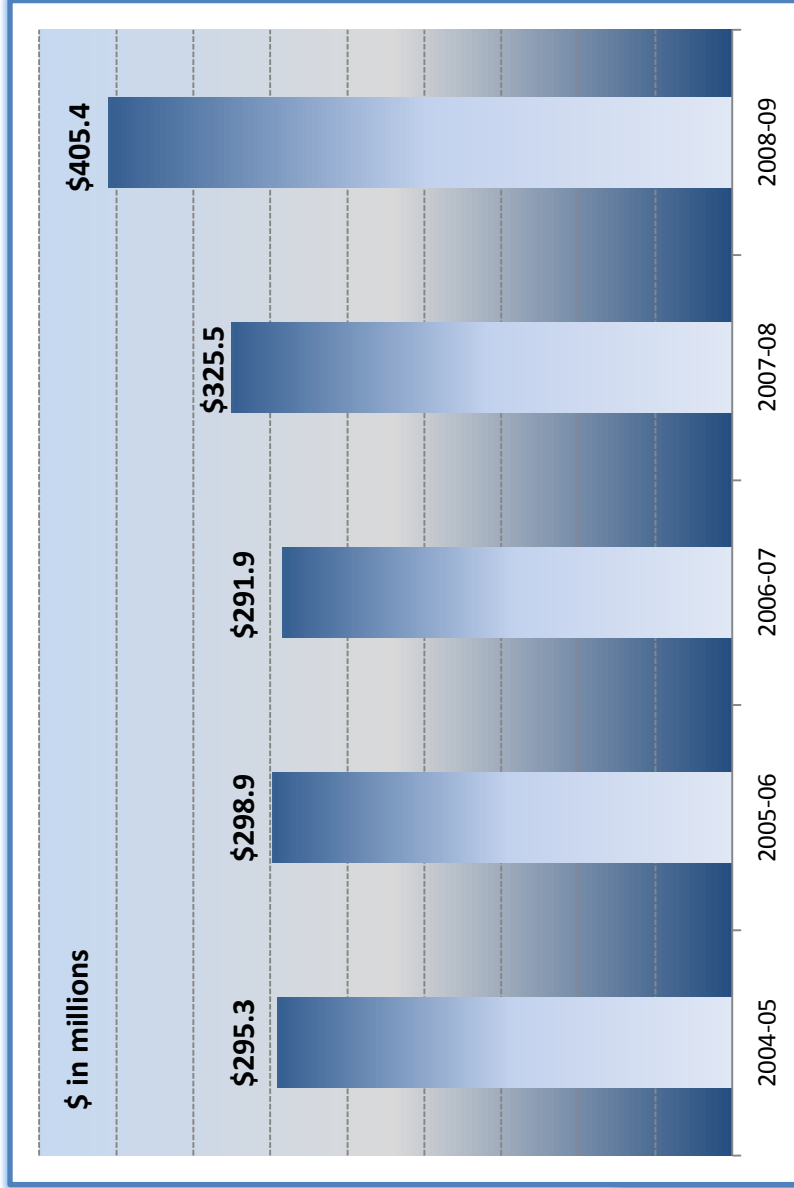
“Recent research suggests that low-income high school students do not prepare for college because they believe a postsecondary education is expensive and unaffordable...”

Corresponding research has documented how financial aid shifted during the last generation from grants to loans and from income-based scholarships to merit aid... These studies conclude that more financial aid should be awarded to the most economically disadvantaged.”

**Tierney & Venegas
Finding Money on the Table: Information,
Financial Aid, and Access to College
Journal of Higher Education, 80(4), 363-388, (2009)**

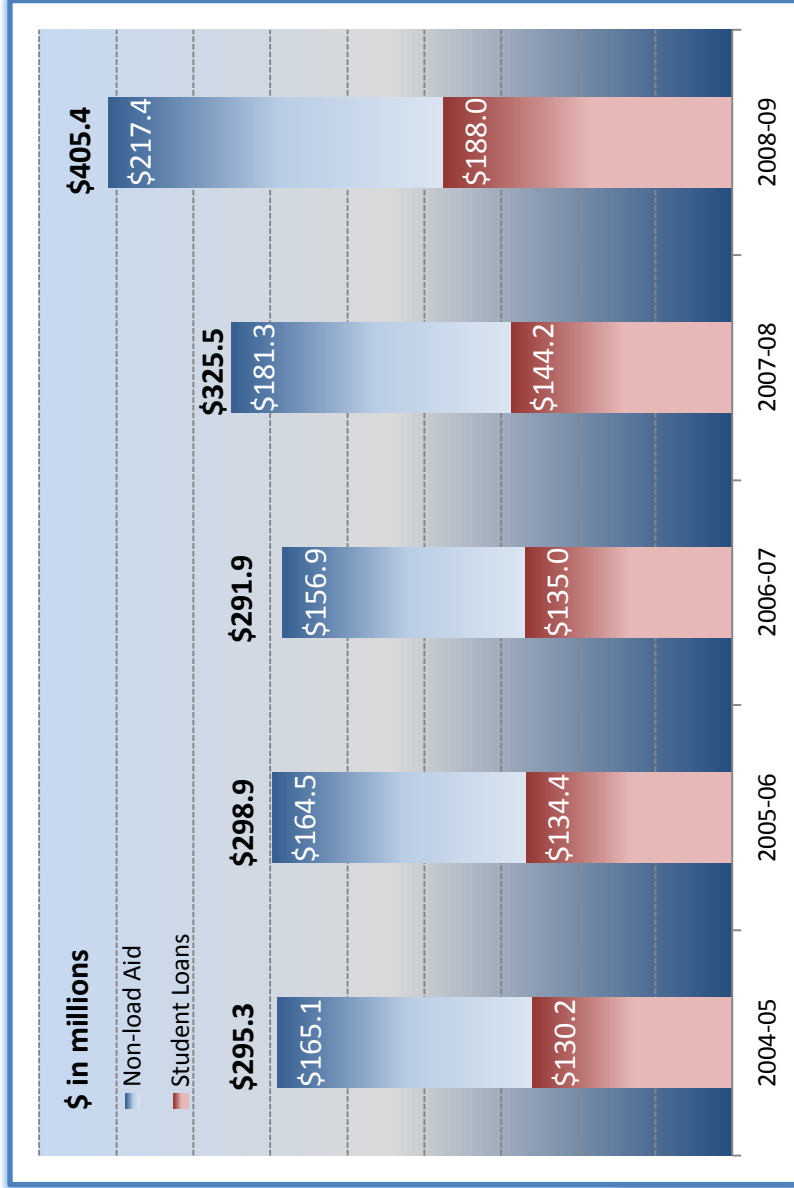
NSHE Financial Aid

Financial aid awards have increased by 37.3% since 2004



NSHE Financial Aid

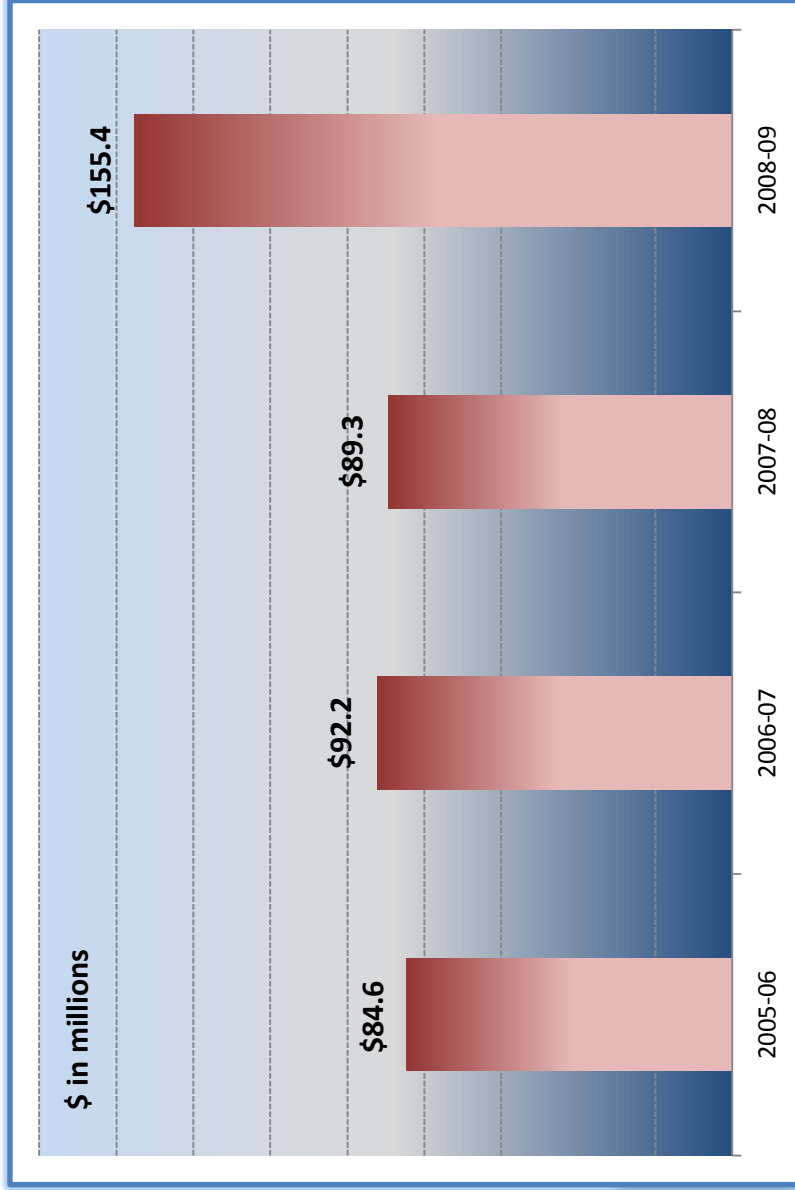
Financial aid awards have increased by 37.3% since 2004



Students increasingly rely upon loans to meet the cost of attendance

NSHE Unmet Need for FAFSA Filers

As NSHE's budget falls, The System is increasingly unable to meet the demand for aid



Rising Tuition, Lower Aid

“We’re talking about, literally, choosing between tuition and groceries...”

If I have to choose one, my kids are going to eat.”

Tara Burbank & John Clark
UNLV and CSN College Students
<http://www.lvrj.com/news/legislators-hear-appeals-for-increases-not-cuts-in-government-services-114891579.html>

Students and Staff Are Going Hungry

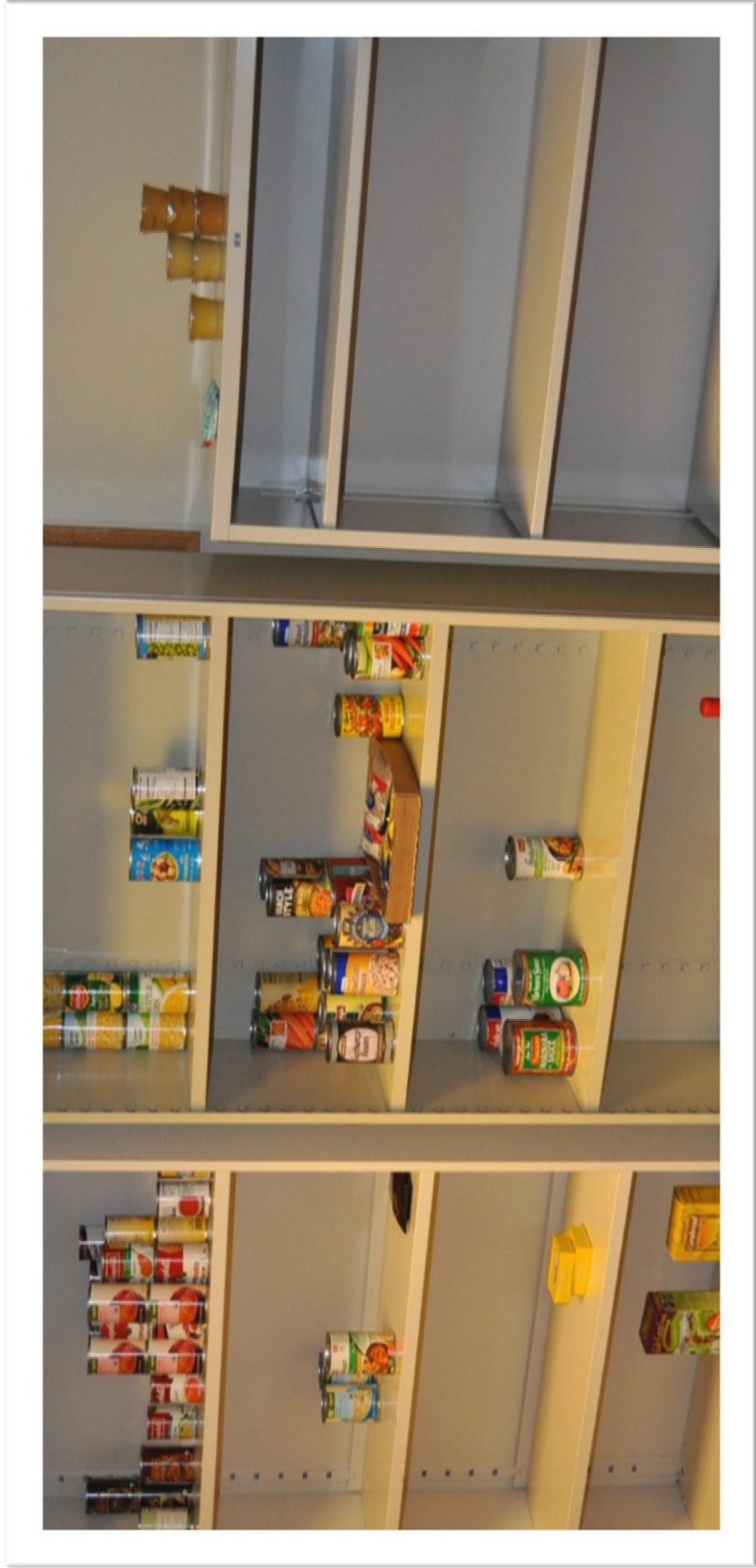
In November 2010, the UNLV Graduate & Professional Student Association collaborated with several other on-campus groups to develop a UNLV Food Bank



1,689 items were donated by staff and students over a one week period

Students and Staff Are Going Hungry

With minimal publicity of the resource, the Food Bank ultimately served a total of 137 people in our trial run



Over 82% of the items were distributed within two days

Recommendations

“According to a new report from the Milken Institute and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, it’s going to require real paradigm shifts: a fundamental restructuring of budgets and the entire budgeting process, sustainable revenue generation, new efficiencies and federal/state partnerships.”

**The Milken Institute Press Release
October 7, 2010**

<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/newsroom/newsroom.taf?cat=press&function=detail&level/1=new&ID=1821>

- Preserve Millennium Scholarship
- Keep tuition on campuses
- Explore unpopular or creative solutions to “grow the pie”
- Keep NSHE funding levels intact

Summary

- The Nevada System of Higher Education is woven into the fabric of the state
- Economic diversification only possible through higher education:
 - Research is critical to developing the reputation of our institutions, attracting people, resources... high-tech industries, and federal funding to Nevada
- The value of the NSHE degree is critical for the future success of our graduates
 - Future cuts jeopardize accreditation
- Investing in education reduces the debt burden of funding prisons, social services, and health and human services
- NSHE provides the workforce for crucial areas of Nevada: K-12, nurses...
 - Program elimination due to cuts puts high-need tracks at risk
- The Millennium Scholarship is a critical resource for the success of our students