

UNLV | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNLV'S BUDGET SITUATION, PRIORITIES, AND IMPACT

Since 2007, Nevada's fiscal crisis has forced UNLV to eliminate more than 540 positions and endure an approximately \$50 million less in operating funds in the last four years, while the need for higher education in our state has never been greater. Now the governor's budget for the next two fiscal years proposes to cut an additional \$47.5 million from UNLV. Combined with prior cuts, this is a cumulative state budget reduction of just under \$100 million since 2007. UNLV cannot withstand a deficit of this magnitude without taking drastic measures. If approved, the proposed \$47.5 million cut would limit the number of students we serve, decimate faculty ranks, cripple our ability to retain and recruit academic talent, and reduce income from student fees and faculty-generated grants and contracts.

Higher education is not just a budget item—it is an investment. Including multiplier effects, UNLV generated \$1.15 billion in economic activity in Southern Nevada during 2009. For every dollar of state appropriation funds, the university creates \$5.80 in local economic activity. UNLV can help lead the state out of this recession and put it on the track to economic recovery, but the university needs your help. Let your legislator know what a key role UNLV plays in educating the local work force, attracting diversified businesses, fostering innovation and discovery, and generating grants and outside funding.

PRIORITIES

- Emphasize the university's significant economic impact and its role in Nevada's recovery—UNLV educates the local work force, attracts diversified businesses, fosters innovation and discovery, and generates grants and outside funding.
- Allow UNLV to be entrepreneurial by keeping the tuition and fees paid by our students.
- Add at least \$80 million per year back into the budget for Nevada's higher education system (the governor's budget proposes to cut \$162.5 million per year). If the \$80 million is returned, approximately \$25.3 million would be allocated to UNLV. Possible funding could include an extension of the taxes that are due to sunset at the end of the current biennium or other revenue sources.

IMPACT OF UNLV

- Two-thirds of UNLV's 90,000 alumni reside in Southern Nevada, including more than 5,000 K-12 teachers; 9,000 hotel and tourism professionals; and thousands of health care professionals, business owners, and managers.
- UNLV is a leader in providing practical research that attracts new industries to Nevada in areas like alternative energy, health, and entrepreneurship, resulting in diversification of the state's economy.
- The College of Hotel Administration has been named one of the top two hospitality programs nationally for the last 15 years.
- UNLV serves more than 22,000 undergraduate and nearly 6,000 graduate students from all 50 states and 77 countries.
- Hundreds of K-12 children receive one-on-one tutoring from education majors to improve their reading proficiency at the Gayle A. Zeiter Literacy Development Center.
- The International Gaming Institute provides analysis, resources, and continuing education for the gaming industry.
- Educational Outreach serves more than 60,000 non-traditional students annually.
- In the last decade, grants and contracts totaling more than \$99 million have allowed UNLV researchers to study various forms of renewable energy.
- The School of Dental Medicine has provided affordable dental care to more than 57,000 Clark County residents.
- The Nevada Small Business Development Center has helped train and advise more than 2,000 local small businesses.
- Students and faculty at the William S. Boyd School of Law donate more than 50,000 hours of legal services and information through the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution, Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic, and externship and community service programs.
- Many of UNLV health sciences graduates (nurses, physical therapists, dentists, dietitians, biostatisticians, radiographers, epidemiologists, athletic trainers, and health care administrators) remain in the area to improve the quality of life and public health in Southern Nevada.
- TRIO and GEAR UP programs at UNLV's Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach have helped more than 24,000 disadvantaged Clark County middle and high school students in their quest to attend college.
- UNLV's partnerships with The Lincy Institute and Brookings Institution are improving the lives of Nevadans by providing analysis and services for decision makers across the state.
- The libraries at UNLV are a resource for everyone, last year helping 178,326 people (members of the general public, students, and faculty) via phone, in person, and electronically.
- Public health and anthropology students are working to reduce risk factors for Type 2 diabetes among urban American Indians.
- The Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies and the Center for Business and Economic Research provide high-quality analysis of economic conditions.