

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.

UNLV | FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNLV'S BUDGET

HOW MUCH HAS UNLV LOST SINCE THE RECESSION HIT?

UNLV has already lost approximately \$50 million in state funding since 2007. The governor's budget for the next two fiscal years proposes to cut an additional \$47.5 million from UNLV's current state appropriation – a 27 percent reduction in dollars UNLV is receiving from the state. If the proposed budget is implemented, UNLV will experience a cumulative loss in state funding of just under \$100 million by 2013.

HOW MANY POSITIONS HAVE BEEN LOST AT UNLV SO FAR?

UNLV is down more than 540 positions. This number includes layoffs, voluntary separations, retirements, and unfilled vacancies.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT ON UNLV STUDENTS SO FAR?

Right now UNLV offers approximately 1,000 fewer sections than it did in pre-recession days, primarily because of the reduction of faculty and instructors (our part-time instructor budget has already been reduced by 25 percent). Remaining faculty members have increased their workloads and class sizes so students can progress to graduation. Some students, however, may find it difficult to find open sections of required classes, so it may take longer for them to graduate.

HOW COULD PROPOSED CUTS AFFECT UNLV?

If the governor's proposed cuts are implemented, we estimate eliminating 33 degree programs and losing more than 300 employees. Beyond the damage to the university's structure is the reality that UNLV would become a very different institution, unable to serve as many students or meet the needs of the state.

WHAT IS UNLV'S CURRENT STATE APPROPRIATION?

For fiscal year 2011, UNLV's current state appropriation is \$172.4 million.

HOW MUCH HAS THE GOVERNOR PROPOSED TO CUT THE STATE'S APPROPRIATION FOR FY12 AND FY 13?

In Governor Sandoval's budget proposal, UNLV will receive \$124.9 million. This is a cut of \$47.5 million over the next two years.

HOW DOES A CUT IN STATE APPROPRIATIONS AFFECT UNLV'S TOTAL BUDGET?

The impact of this cut is devastating because state-appropriated funds and tuition and fees combine to make up more than half of UNLV's total budget (state general fund—34 percent, tuition and fees—17 percent). The remaining 49 percent of UNLV's other revenue streams are restricted funds like federal financial aid, research grants and contracts, restricted gifts, residence hall operations, and self-funded activities that cannot be reallocated to other expenses.

WHAT IS UNLV'S AND NEVADA'S RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

Higher education is not just a budget item—it is an investment. Including multiplier effects, UNLV contributed \$1.15 billion in economic activity in Southern Nevada during 2009. For every dollar of state appropriation funds, the university generates \$5.80 in local economic activity. In addition, according to a white paper focusing on economic growth and development in Nevada, individuals with higher levels of education consistently earn more and are more likely than others to remain employed during economic downturns. Nevada residents who have graduated from college generate higher tax collections for the state and have a much lower demand for public services and assistance. Future growth opportunities identified as crucial for Nevada — business clusters such as health, homeland security, information and communication technology, life sciences, sustainable energy technologies, and regional headquarters development — require a skilled work force. Nevada ranks 46 out of 50 states for college education attainment. Nevada needs more college graduates. Higher education is the critical foundation for improving the state's human capital to support future development.

FACTS & STATS

President: Neal Smatresk
Founded: 1957
Web address: www.unlv.edu

COLLEGES/DIVISIONS

Business	Education
Engineering	Fine Arts
Graduate	Health Sciences
Honors	Hotel Administration
Liberal Arts	Sciences
Urban Affairs	Student Affairs
Academic Success Center	
Educational Outreach	

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

Law	Dental Medicine
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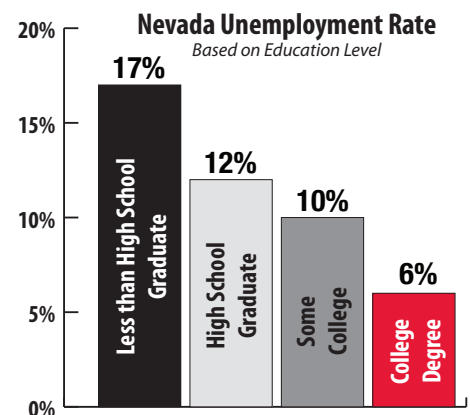
STUDENTS

Total Headcount: 28,203
 Graduate/Professional: 5,684 (20%)



WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES A COLLEGE DEGREE MAKE?

Over the course of a lifetime, people with college degrees earn about \$1 million more than those with a high school degree. A college degree is no guarantee against unemployment, but consider the unemployment statistics in the chart below.*



*According to the national 2009 American Community Survey

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CAN UNLV INCREASE TUITION AND FEES?

Yes, increasing tuition and fees will be part of the solution to UNLV's budget problem, but keep in mind that tuition and fees have already gone up dramatically in the last four years. When comparing Spring 2007 to the current Spring 2011 semester, undergraduate registration fees have increased 53.7 percent, and graduate registration fees have increased 63.3 percent. While tuition and fees will have to go up in the future, we are approaching the point of diminishing returns.

WILL INCREASING TUITION MAKE UP FOR LOST STATE FUNDING?

Tuition increases cannot fill the entire gap. We estimate UNLV will need to increase tuition by 10 percent a year for the next two years to partially make up for the loss of so much state funding. We are requesting that the Legislature change the funding formula. UNLV needs to retain all the tuition and fees it collects so we can assure our students that what they pay will support their education on the UNLV campus. We know that tuition increases pose a real hardship for many UNLV students and can affect their ability to stay in school and graduate. Our nontraditional student body, which includes many students who are putting themselves through the university and are the first generation of their family to attend college, may no longer be able to afford UNLV if tuition goes up too much more.

HOW DO UNLV'S TUITION AND FEES COMPARE TO OTHER PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN OUR REGION?

UNLV's out-of-state tuition is higher than the regional average, and this can decrease out-of-state enrollment. While UNLV's fees for Nevada residents are below the average for similar institutions in the West, our financial aid availability in Nevada is much lower than at peer institutions. Consequently, the net out-of-pocket cost to UNLV students and their families is high by comparison.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST STUDENTS TO ATTEND UNLV ANNUALLY?

Nevada students pay registration and other mandatory fees: * **\$5,689**

Out-of-state students pay tuition plus registration and other mandatory fees: * **\$18,755**

*Based on a course load of 15 credits each semester.

WHY DOES LAS VEGAS NEED UNLV?

There are so many reasons. First and foremost we offer opportunity — the education that transforms people's lives and maximizes their potential. We produce the educated work force Las Vegas so desperately needs for its future success. We are an engine for economic development and diversification. We generate significant economic impact for our metropolitan area. Our research helps harness business opportunities and tackles the problems our community faces. We improve the quality of life in our community and foster a creative environment in a city constantly reinventing itself. There is no successful large, urban area in the country that does not have a healthy and productive research university supporting it.

WHAT HAS UNLV DONE TO REDUCE SPENDING, REFORM ITSELF, AND BECOME MORE EFFICIENT?

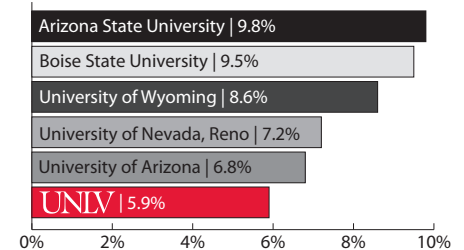
Even before the current budget crisis, UNLV moved aggressively to streamline its operations. UNLV has documented more than \$12 million dollars in utility cost savings by converting to water-smart landscaping (reducing overall water use by 45 percent) and conserving energy in the last decade. In fact, UNLV has done such an outstanding job lowering its operating and maintenance expenses that it has won national and state awards for its efficiency. In just the last year, UNLV has reduced expenses for goods and services by \$3.2 million through various belt-tightening measures and negotiating new contracts. We are improving how we teach large classes and re-educating our faculty to improve student learning. UNLV has steadily improved its freshman retention rate the last few years and expects to exceed 80 percent this year. Finally, with the loss of so many positions on top of already low staffing levels, our administrative staff is one of the leanest in the country. In fact, UNLV is in the bottom five nationally in administrative spending.

WHY CAN'T UNLV USE THE MONEY IT RAISES TO FILL THE BUDGET GAP?

UNLV is fortunate to have so many generous friends and alumni who donate money to the university. Most donors specify how they want this money spent. UNLV must honor stated donor preferences and cannot reallocate money for other expenses. In addition, not all donations immediately translate into cash income. Some are pledges that will be paid over several years, some may not come to a university until an estate is settled, and some need to be allocated for endowments.



PERCENTAGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF COMPARED WITH PEER INSTITUTIONS*



UNLV is very lean administratively. Among its regional peers, UNLV has the lowest percentage — only 5.9 percent of its total budget — allotted to administrative support staff.

**Figures are from FY09. Administrative support staff has been reduced even more during the last two years, with more cuts projected in FY12 and FY13.*

UNLV | LEGISLATIVE AND FINANCIAL PRIORITIES

ADD BACK \$80 MILLION—The Governor’s proposed budget includes cuts of \$162.5 million per year for higher education. Nevada’s universities and colleges need at least \$80 million per year added back into the budget in order to maintain basic services for students. If the \$80 million is returned to the Nevada System of Higher Education, approximately \$25.3 million will be allocated to UNLV.

Currently proposed cuts 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. UNLV students are already paying more for their education. Tuition and fees have risen dramatically in the last four years -- up almost 54 percent for undergraduates and 63 percent for graduate students. Tuition will likely be increased again in the next two years to fill part of the budget deficit. Other possible funding for higher education could include an extension of the taxes that are due to sunset at the end of the current biennium or other revenue sources.

FUNDING FORMULA REFORM — The Legislature needs to modernize the higher education funding formula for the long-term health of the university. In addition to the February 2010 legislative Letter of Intent, other adjustments need to be considered to eventually recover millions of dollars lost due to past funding formula inequities. We are proposing that an official interim legislative committee finalize proposed changes so they can be presented to the 2013 Legislature. UNLV needs to keep the dollars it generates through student fees here on campus.

Allowing the university to retain its tuition and fees – especially differential tuition for high cost programs and the significantly higher tuition and fees from nonresident students – can generate income for the university and act as an incentive to recruit high-achieving out-of-state and international students to Nevada. However, there is a limit to how much we can increase tuition for these students, who generate significant economic activity for the state. Since the most recent increase of out-of-state tuition, we are already seeing a decline in enrollment from this group of students.

EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING — At UNLV we understand the importance of shared sacrifice. The university has already lost more than 540 employees. Those remaining have taken on many additional responsibilities for less pay and reduced benefits. It is increasingly difficult for us to retain valuable faculty and staff who are already spread too thin. When the university needs to fill key vacancies, the erosion of health and other benefits places UNLV in a poor competitive position.

It is vitally important that we preserve the well being of our employees already hit hard by the budget crisis and pay cuts. Proposed changes to the current Public Employees Benefit Plan eviscerate already diminished health benefits, increase premiums, and raise deductibles to unacceptably high levels. The extremely high costs hit employees at the lower end of the state wage scale especially hard. Funding an adequate health insurance plan for the employees of the Nevada System of Higher Education is imperative.

Roughly two-thirds of UNLV employees are not a part of Nevada’s public retirement system (PERS). Contrary to public perception, most UNLV faculty and professional staff members are instead part of a defined contribution retirement program similar to the 401(k) programs offered by many corporations.

GOVERNOR GUINN MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP — The Nevada System of Higher Education wants to work with the Legislature to help secure the financial future for the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship program. Over the past 10 years, this program has provided access to higher education for 60,000 students who might not otherwise be able to achieve their dream of going to college. It is imperative that this program continue so that the percentage of Nevada students attending college will increase.



LEADING THE WAY TO NEVADA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

ECONOMIC IMPACT. UNLV leverages every penny received in state funding by paying it back exponentially in economic impact. The university's primary economic impact can be felt in the jobs, wages, goods, services, and revenues its employees and students generate in the local economy. Then there are the secondary impacts. How much do UNLV employees and students spend as a result of their work and attendance? How much do out-of-state and international students add to the picture? They moved to Southern Nevada because of UNLV. Their economic activity multiplies and generates even more impact as they set up households and buy clothes, furniture, groceries, and other essentials. They also spend their money at local restaurants and attractions. The multiplier effect is, indeed, powerful.

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UNLV also positively affects Nevada's export economy. The university generates revenue for the state as it attracts and develops income streams from outside Nevada's borders. This includes out-of-state and international students, federal grants and contracts, and visitors coming to UNLV facilities like the Thomas & Mack Center. For every dollar the state currently invests in UNLV, we generate an additional \$5.80 in economic impact, amounting to approximately \$1.15 billion. Clearly, an investment in the university is an investment in the state.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Nevada cannot continue to rely on an economy funded primarily through tourism and gaming, as the most recent economic crisis has confirmed. While hospitality should remain a pillar of Nevada's economy, we must begin developing new industries and attracting businesses that can provide greater economic stability. Discovery and the application of new knowledge lead to business and community success. Having a major research university in Las Vegas offers an advantage to companies, which can diversify the current economic portfolio of our region.

...we must begin developing new industries and attracting businesses that can provide greater economic stability.

Every successful, large, urban area in the country with a diverse business climate has a healthy and productive research university supporting it. UNLV's faculty produce more than \$96 million in grants and contracts every year, and those funds help support innovation and discovery that lead to patents and small-business formation. In order to attract companies and grow our economy, we must focus development on industries that represent our future, increase education and training opportunities, and modernize our approach to developing a skilled work force.

WORK FORCE PREPARATION. UNLV produces what is still the most important facet of any business: human resources. Within the next 10 to 15 years, two-thirds of all jobs will require at least some postsecondary education. UNLV is the primary source for developing a highly educated work force for Nevada. Our faculty bring the results and activities from cutting-edge disciplines directly into the classroom, thereby enriching and improving the quality of our students' educational experience and making it more meaningful. UNLV can also retrain workers for new careers and upgrade skills through our certificate programs. We cannot build a diversified economy without a work force to staff it; therefore, UNLV graduates create the necessary foundation for moving toward this goal.

The future prosperity of Nevada requires a well-educated group of leaders who will contribute to an economy that is increasingly knowledge-based.

The future prosperity of Nevada requires a well-educated group of leaders who will contribute to an economy that is increasingly knowledge-based. With the highest percentage increase in public high school graduates projected over the next two decades (an increase of 66 percent), Nevada has an excellent pool of talented students seeking higher-education opportunities. The brightest students want the best higher-education experience, and, if they cannot find it in Nevada, they will seek it in another state and probably not return. By offering high-quality educational programs, UNLV attracts and retains those students who will make the greatest impact in our region.

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LEADING THE WAY TO NEVADA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

PROBLEM SOLVING. Discoveries made through research translate directly into jobs and business opportunities. Investment in research and development at UNLV, with an emphasis on commercialization, is essential for Nevada's long-term competitive outlook, but even more so for the immediate-term recovery of our state's economy. For example, UNLV has generated more than \$99 million in the past decade to fund research in a wide range of renewable-energy areas, including solar and geothermal power; biofuels; photonics; nuclear energy, including the recycling of nuclear waste; and hydrogen production, storage, and use.

UNLV engages public and private partners across the state to tackle tough issues to create a better, stronger, and more productive region.

UNLV engages public and private partners across the state to tackle tough issues to create a better, stronger, and more productive region. Through initiatives like The Lincy Institute and our partnership with the Brookings Institution, we provide invaluable service and solid research for policymakers across the state. UNLV is committed to improving the quality of life of every Nevadan through advancements and direct services in health care, social services, technology and engineering, education, and the arts.

Not only do art, culture, and entertainment play important roles in attracting business critical to economic recovery, they contribute directly to financial activity, support jobs, and return revenue to local and state governments.

CREATIVE ECONOMY. Cultural vitality is a major component of quality of life and economic prosperity. UNLV's many art and cultural activities showcase Nevada's uniqueness and help create a place that people want to visit or call home. If Nevada is to attract new business and investment to our state, our universities must be thriving centers for art and culture in order to attract entrepreneurial individuals who can help to build and diversify our economy.

Not only do art, culture, and entertainment play important roles in attracting business critical to economic recovery, they contribute directly to financial activity, support jobs, and return revenue to local and state governments. The Thomas & Mack Center, Sam Boyd Stadium, and Cox Pavilion alone bring more than 250 events annually to Las Vegas, including concerts, sporting events, and shows. Through university events, athletics, and community partnerships, UNLV provides a vital link between art, culture, and commerce.

ABOUT THE STUDY

The UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) conducted a study to measure the economic contribution of UNLV to the Southern Nevada economy. The question was asked: If UNLV had shut down in 2009, how would this affect the community? The analysis provides an answer for the present and through 2050. Constant Tra and Mridutpal Nag of CBER at the UNLV College of Business authored the report.

As one of the 10 largest employers in Clark County, UNLV employed 3,222 individuals in December of 2009. UNLV also contributes to the local economy through its expenditures on local businesses in support of its operations. CBER estimated that UNLV spent approximately \$83 million in Southern Nevada during fiscal year 2009. UNLV also provides economic activity in Southern Nevada through the expenditures of its students and visitors on local goods and services.

HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS DONE

UNLV's economic contribution on the community is measured by:

- The primary impacts, defined as UNLV's direct financial contribution to local economic activity. These included:
 - » University employment and expenditures
 - » Student expenditures
 - » Other university-related visitor expenditures
- The multiplier effects, which are the result of the additional rounds of spending that ripple through the Southern Nevada economy as consequence of UNLV's direct expenditures and the expenditures that UNLV students and visitors make in the community.

FINDINGS

UNLV's Economic Contribution to Southern Nevada

- Including multiplier effects, UNLV generated \$1.15 billion in economic activity in Southern Nevada during 2009.
- UNLV's direct economic impact, accounting for university and employment expenditures, student expenditures, and visitor expenditures, is estimated at nearly \$525 million.
- For every dollar of state appropriation funds, the university generated \$5.80 in economic activity to Southern Nevada.
- Each dollar of student off-campus spending generated approximately \$2.19 of economic activity for Southern Nevada.
- By 2050, UNLV's continued expenditure of \$525 million annually will generate at least 13,000 jobs a year (about 10,000 of which are not at the university).
- By 2050, UNLV's continued expenditure of \$525 million annually will generate more than \$10 billion in economic activity in Southern Nevada.

UNLV'S PRIMARY DIRECT IMPACTS ON THE SOUTHERN NEVADA ECONOMY

- **University Expenditures** — UNLV's largest impact on the Southern Nevada economy comes from its spending on payroll (employee compensation and benefits) and on goods and services (utilities, services, and equipment supplies). In 2009, the impact of university expenditures on the Southern Nevada economy was about \$339 million—\$256 million on payroll and an additional \$83 million on goods and services.
- **Student Expenditures** — UNLV students contribute to the Southern Nevada economy through their purchase of goods and services, such as room and board, books, transportation, and personal items. In 2009, the impact of student expenditures on the Southern Nevada economy was estimated at about \$154 million.
- **Visitor Expenditures** — Spending generated by visitors, such as parents, alumni, and patrons, at university events contribute to the Southern Nevada economy. Visitors spend money at sports games, concerts, and other types of entertainment held at, for example, the Cox Pavilion, Sam Boyd Stadium, and the Thomas and Mack Center. The impact of other university related visitor spending on the Southern Nevada economy was \$32 million in 2009.

UNLV’s TOTAL DIRECT IMPACT

UNLV’s direct impact on the Southern Nevada economy, resulting from total spending on payroll and goods and services, student spending on goods and services, and other university-related visitor spending, was estimated at \$525 million in 2009.

UNLV’s Total Estimated Direct Impact: Fiscal Year 2009

UNIVERSITY EXPENDITURES

University employee wages	\$256 million
University demand for goods and services	\$83 million
Student Expenditures (demand for goods and services)	\$154 million
Visitor Expenditures (university related)	\$32 million
Total Direct Impact	\$525 million

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT: UNLV’s ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

Two-Year Effects

The university’s direct impact, about \$525 million, provides spinoff impacts that ripple through the local economy. Spinoff impacts are the result of additional rounds of spending that take place after the direct spending has occurred. For example, university employees spend their paychecks at local businesses for housing, groceries, and clothing. Local business employees then spend those dollars again for their own housing, groceries, and clothing, and so on. As a result, the full impact on the economy is more than \$525 million. When the \$525 million ripples through the economy, it creates another \$623 million in economic activity. Therefore, UNLV’s total economic contribution to the Southern Nevada economy in 2009 was \$1.15 billion.

Long-Term Effects

Over the long run, UNLV’s contribution to the Southern Nevada economy is much more substantial. By 2050, UNLV’s continued expenditure of \$525 million annually will generate at least 13,134 jobs a year (9,912 of which are not at the university) and \$10.2 billion in economic activity in Southern Nevada.

NEVADA’S RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN UNLV

UNLV’s total revenues in 2009 were about \$469 million. Nearly 42 percent, \$197 million, accounted for state appropriations. For every dollar invested by the state in UNLV, the university generated an additional \$5.80 in economic activity in Southern Nevada. In addition, each dollar of student off-campus spending generated approximately \$2.19 of economic activity in the community.

CONCLUSION

UNLV is a vital part of the Southern Nevada economy and will continue to be so. In 2009, UNLV contributed \$1.15 billion in output to the Southern Nevada economy. By the year 2050, the same size university would create at least \$10.2 billion in economic activity for Southern Nevada. These estimates are conservative as they do not include the economic value of the education provided to the students or the positive spillover effects of:

1. research and development,
2. advanced science and technology,
3. a better trained work force that can compete globally, and
4. attracting new industries that help to diversify the Nevada economy.

Nor do the estimates include qualitative impacts, such as benefits resulting from the university’s social and cultural events, which lead to improved quality of life for local residents.

UNLV President Neal Smatresk understands the benefits to the state that accrue from investing in higher education. He asks, “If higher education isn’t going to lead the way into a better, brighter future, economic diversification, and work force production, who is?”

¹ Computation of the direct impacts, UNLV expenditures, student expenditures and visitor expenditures is found in the full report.