Highlights & Updates reflects the work of the Top Tier committees for the individual goal areas during 2018-2019. Please visit https://www.unlv.edu/news, https://www.unlv.edu/about/highlights/, and https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/assets/toptier/docs/UNLV-Highlights.pdf for more news, accomplishments, and highlights that demonstrate campus efforts to achieve our Top Tier goals.

**UNLV’s Top Tier Vision**

By 2025, UNLV will be recognized as a top tier public university in research, education, and community impact.

**UNLV’s Top Tier Mission**

UNLV’s diverse faculty, students, staff, and alumni promote community well-being and individual achievement through education, research, scholarship, creative activities, and clinical services. We stimulate economic development and diversification, foster a climate of innovation, promote health, and enrich the cultural vitality of the communities that we serve.
Student Achievement

- Academic units have been charged with revising strategic plans, aligned with the Top Tier Strategic Plan, that address curriculum, co-curricular activities, instruction, and student support services.
- Best Practices for student success were disseminated, and there are marked efforts on instructional equity best practices.
- An intensive first-year advising program begins fall 2019 and involves proactive advising supported by peer mentoring. More advisors to aid first year students have been added, creating lower student to advisor ratios.
- First year retention has increased to 79.4%, but is still shy of the 78.5% goal for this year.
- Six-year graduation rate increased to 44.8% and exceeded the goal for this year.
- Approximately 110 additional bachelor’s degrees were conferred this past year as compared to 2017-18.
- Online student credit hours saw an increase of 17% during 2017-18.
- UNLV has six fully online programs as of fall 2019.
- The Office of Economic Development is advancing student commercialization efforts through RebelForge, an initiative that fosters the young minds of future entrepreneurs and innovators by cultivating the resources, knowledge, and skill sets essential to the development process of a successful startup.

UNLV ranks #1 for the most diverse campus, according to US News & World Report.

Military Times ranked UNLV 33rd nationally among four-year institutions in the annual “Best for Vets: Colleges” edition.

UNLV is a participating institution in the MGM Resorts and the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) College Opportunity Program (COP), which provides access to online certificate and college degree programs at no cost to MGM Resorts Employees.

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

- Research Activity:
  - Research expenditures increased by 27%, from $66.3M to $83.8M.
  - Non-faculty researchers have increased 18% since 2016, from 77 to 91.
  - Patents issued have doubled in the past three years, increasing from 5 to 10.
  - Faculty publications have increased by 284, or 22.6%, to a total of 1,542.
- Developed draft hiring contract & MOU template for research-intensive faculty, specifying funding, research and teaching expectations, and promotion criteria.
- Created VPRED Space Committee and policies to determine space assignments in SEB, HRC, and VPRED-controlled space.
- Drafted new campus-wide F&A policy.
- Developed new review policies and procedures for CCMIL, including less burdensome yearly review process and intensive five-year site visit and review.
- Ground breaking on new, 125,000 square foot, 4 story, building at the Research Park occurred in July of 2018; agreement entered into between UNLV and CAESARS for BLACK FIRE INNOVATION end of April 2018.
- Graduate College efforts focus on recruiting, retaining, progressing, and completing (R2PC).
- Postdoc Committee: handbook has been drafted; climate and exit surveys developed; events held to develop the postdoc community; and advanced efforts to locate miscoded Postdocs.
- Faculty and Student Support Committee developed a GA allocation model and focused on graduate student health and wellbeing.
- A number of innovative programs have been developed by the Graduate College, including implementation of interdisciplinary doctoral graduate programs, student fees, certificates, educational outreach programming, and central graduate courses.
Academic Health Center

- Allied Health Sciences became the School of Integrated Health Sciences, a broader term which more appropriately describes and supports the range of conditions and illnesses these professionals treat.
- The School of Nursing significantly increased grant funding more than five-fold, from $268K to $1.4M.
- In the School of Dental Medicine during 2019, 100% of students passed the Part I of the National Dental Board Examination (NBDE), with a first time pass rate of 91%. This was an increase over the previous year with a first time pass rate of 91%.
- The UNLV School of Public Health (known as the School of Community Health Sciences until Nov. 2018) became the first and only accredited School of Public Health in Nevada by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). It is currently one of 66 schools in the world with this distinction.
- The School of Medicine welcomed its third class of students July 15th, 2019. The class of 2023 boasts an average GPA of 3.7 and 510 MCAT. More than 1,950 completed applications were received for 60 slots.

Community Partnerships

- Fundraising: More than $377 M has been raised over the last five years, including $74.3 M during FY19.
- Economic Development was strong during FY19:
  - Jobs created as a result of the Small Business Development Center dramatically increased threefold, from 207 to 632.
  - New business starts have increased by 6%, from 49 to 52.
  - Licensing revenue increased 12% to more than $400,000.
- Athletics:
  - Student-athletes earned a 3.0 GPA spring 2019 for 4th Consecutive Semester, and the student-athlete cumulative GPA is 3.09.
  - Student-Athlete Postgraduate Employment Rate has increased by nearly 50% in two years with an overall rate of 75%
  - RAF Membership is up by 30% with record corporate philanthropy including $5 Million from Boyd Gaming, Agassi Foundation – Excellence Center.
  - 1,241 hours of community service by student-athletes. New Rebels Give Back Program launched.
  - Silver State Series champions – 6th Time in 7 years – Fremont Cannon back to UNLV
  - Added full-time psychologist for first time in History Department – student-athlete welfare and sports performance is area of emphasis across department
  - Hired New Men’s Basketball Head Coach T.J. Otzelberger; Women’s Tennis, Cheer, Rebel Girls & Company Won Championships; Softball – Best Start To Season in 24 Years; Volleyball – Best Season for First-Year Coach in Program History
  - Two First Team All-Americans, First-Round MLB Draft Pick (No. 14 overall)
- The Office of Community Engagement has coordinated and completed the application for the Carnegie Foundation’s Classification for Community Engagement.
- Faculty and staff within Urban Affairs have completed more than 500 hours of community engagement and hired two new faculty to continue to address the issue of homelessness, which has been a grand issue focus piece for the past two years.
- The Division of Educational Outreach has new offerings with coding boot camp, glass blowing, and UAS.
- Several major events were held at UNLV, including Al Gore, the MGM Public Policy Institute, an anti-semitism lecture, and lectures by Annie Leibovitz, Guillermo del Toro, and W. Kamau Bell.
- More than 94,000 visitors came to UNLV for cultural activities (Performing Arts, art galleries, Libraries, Barrick Lectures).
- Campus signage continues to be updated and refreshed.
Infrastructure and Shared Governance

- Communication
  - New Senior Senator guidelines have been created, including detailed instructions for communication with faculty.
  - A more formalized process for educating and onboarding Senior Senators and first time Senators is underway.
  - Talking points from Senate meetings are e-mailed immediately to all Senators.
- Continued efforts are underway with Faculty Affairs to clarify and bring into compliance the tenure and promotion process.
- A number of new initiatives related to adjunct faculty and their key role with student success are being developed.
- Process Improvement
  - Developed lean process improvement training, and pilots will be conducted to improve processes for independent service providers, supplier registration, and leave of absence.
  - Current states have been mapped and baseline data is being collected.
- Onboarding
  - An onboarding coordinator had been hired and the new onboarding website is now live.
- Safety and technology infrastructure
  - More than 160 security cameras have been installed, repaired, or upgraded.
  - Campus emergency phone systems have been upgrades by creating ‘safety stations’ that include campus emergency phones, lighting, security cameras, and public address systems. 28 upgrades have been completed with 30 near completion.
  - New WiFi has been installed in more than 20 campus buildings.
  - UNLV Police have moved to their new headquarters at University Gateway.
- Space for critical programs
  - The campus footprint has increased to accommodate UNLV’s growth.
  - Acquired key properties adjacent to the UNLV Maryland and Shadow Lane Campuses, totaling over 80,000 square feet of land area
  - Executed space leases for a variety of campus programs and needs
    - UNLV Medicine Faculty Practice Plan
    - UNLV School of Medicine
    - Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, etc.
  - Completed 22,000 square feet of renovations to former EPA buildings to expand campus space and consolidate locate research, academic, and support programs.
  - The Engineering Building expansion for an additional 52,000 square feet is slated to begin construction in January 2020, pending Board of Regents’ approval.
  - The Board of Regents approved the financing plan for a 140,000 square foot Medical Education Building.