

UNLV

WHAT DOES TIER I MEAN?



Tier I definition*

- A very high research focused university
- Top 2.5 percent of higher education institutions, or top 108
- No institution in Nevada currently has this distinction
- UNLV is currently ranked among the top 4.5 percent among 4,600 universities
- Most Tier 1 universities are public institutions, and many have medical schools affiliated with them (74 of 75 – Tier 1 public universities have medical schools)
- Tier 1 universities in the West: Colorado, Utah, Oregon and Arizona State
- University of Central Florida in Orlando is a recent example of a Tier 1 university and has a tourism-based economy like Las Vegas
- Las Vegas is one of the few major metropolitan areas without a Tier 1 university.

Major Metrics of a Tier 1 University

- Grants and contracts approximately \$100 million (UNLV currently is at approximately \$40 million. Pre-recession peak was approximately \$60 million)
- Award 200-plus doctorate degrees per year: (currently award approximately 100 per year based on 3-year average)
- Increase research scientist staff – funded through grants and contracts, not with state money
- Higher graduation rates – exceeding national average of 55 percent

Benefits of a Tier 1 university

- Workforce development enhancement – graduates with broad, multi-purpose expertise in field
- Economic impact doubles or triples: from \$1.5 billion to as much as \$4.5 billion
- Provides economic development opportunities
- Generates 350 high-paying jobs in business community for every \$10 million in new grants and contracts
- Corresponding start-up companies based on investment in research.

Potential economic focus for UNLV

Tier 1 status

- Gaming innovation and regulation
- Unmanned aerial vehicles
- Information technology application (i.e., Switch)
- Health and medical services and analytics (clinical trials)
- Science and technology (i.e., security technologies, climate, green technology)

Additional Resources Required

- \$60 million in additional state investment – cumulatively over the next decade
- Approximately 250 additional faculty (currently 870)
- New capital project funds: \$120 million of private contributions and \$180 million of state investment over the next two decades
- As much as 500,000 square feet more of research space (currently 650,000)

**defined by Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*