The case for Tier One
• The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching defines Tier One as a very high research-focused university
• Only the top 2.5 percent of higher education institutions (108) rank as Tier One
• UNLV is currently ranked in the top 4.5 percent of higher education institutions (207)
• There are 75 public universities designated as Tier One
• Fifty of the 75 Tier One public universities have medical schools
• Examples of Tier One universities in the West: Colorado, Utah, Oregon and Arizona State
• The University of Central Florida in Orlando is a Tier One university serving a tourism-based economy like Las Vegas
• Las Vegas is one of the few major metropolitan areas without a Tier One university
• No institution in Nevada currently holds this distinction

Major characteristics of a Tier One university
• Grants and contracts approximately $100 million (UNLV currently is at approximately $40 million)
• Award 200-plus doctorate degrees per year (UNLV currently awards about 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 One university
• Enhances workforce development, graduating students with broad, multi-purpose expertise
• Doubles or triples economic impact of UNLV from $1.5 billion to as much as $4.5 billion
• Provides economic development opportunities
• Generates 250 high-paying jobs in business community for every $10 million in new grants and contracts
• Facilitates start-up companies based on investment in research

Areas of focus for Tier One status
• Gaming innovation and regulation
• Unmanned aerial systems (i.e., drones)
• Information technology applications (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 of $180 million of state investment plus $120 million in private support over the next two decades
• As much as 500,000 square feet more of research space (currently 650,000)