



UNLVCSUN
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**CONSOLIDATED STUDENTS
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS**
55th Legislative Session

SENATE BILL 55-168

**AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE FIRST GENERATION ESSAY
CONTEST**

Senate Bill Number: SB 55-168

Authors of Legislation: Nadya Perez Martinez, College of Sciences

Sponsor of Legislation: CSUN Scholarships and Grants

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (CSUN) represents all 25,000+ undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, under the authority of CSUN Constitution VI.D.01, is “empowered to enact any legislation that falls under the jurisdiction of CSUN”; AND

WHEREAS, CSUN must actively advocate and represent the needs of all undergraduate students; AND

WHEREAS, CSUN must actively advocate for the financial needs of undergraduate students through the means of scholarships; AND

WHEREAS, the UNLV CSUN Scholarships and Grants Committee was provided \$30,000 for New One-Time Sponsored Scholarships Fund in order to be appropriated for scholarships available within the UNLV community; AND

WHEREAS, after discussion and approval from committee members during S&G 55-19 funds been approved for reallocation within the FY2026 CSUN Budget for an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 ; AND

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: CSUN shall appropriate \$2,000.00 **one** (1) time for the First Generation Essay Contest for the 2025-2026 academic year. This allocation will reflect the CSUN Scholarship program for the 2025-2026 academic year only. After the 2025-2026 academic year, the First Generation Essay Contest will no longer receive funding from CSUN.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED: The CSUN Scholarship and Grants Committee may choose to provide funds again for the First Generation Essay Contest from the One-time Sponsorship Scholarship Funds in future years if the committee chooses to do so.

ADDENDUM A **Description of Last Year's Contest Essay**

Description

Join us on March 28, 2024, for a special event celebrating the remarkable achievements of UNLV's First-Generation Essay Contest Winners! This event is a tribute to the resilience of first-generation students who have shared their unique stories and perspectives through compelling essays. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from the winners as they present their inspiring works, shedding light on their journeys and aspirations. It's a chance to honor their voices and accomplishments while fostering a supportive community that values diversity and the power of storytelling. We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate and recognize these outstanding students!

ADDENDUM B **Money from last year**

Undergraduate Winners

- First Place: Randeep Singh Pannu, Management
- Second Place: Kristina Martirosyan, Psychology
- Third Place: Vidhani Goel, Public Health

diverse array of stories that highlight resilience, determination, and community. The competition honors these students' narratives and provides tangible support through scholarships. First-place winners receive a \$750 scholarship, while second and third-place winners are awarded \$500 and \$250, respectively. These scholarships, sponsored by the Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) Student Council and the Black Mountain Institute, underscore the university's commitment to supporting first-generation students and recognizing their vital contributions to the campus community.

ADDENDUM C

Why support the First Generation Contest Essay

At this time, there is no dedicated First-Generation Scholarship available within the UNLV community. It is unfortunate that our university, with all of its resources and diverse student body, does not currently offer such an opportunity. Recognizing this gap, the Intersection has taken the initiative to create the First Generation Essay Contest.

If provided with this funding, the contest will become the closest opportunity our first-generation students have to a dedicated scholarship experience. While it may not yet carry the name of a formal scholarship program, this contest serves as an essential step toward supporting and uplifting first-generation students at UNLV.

SB 55-168, ADOPTED by the Senate on this ____ Day of ___, 20__

Sharon Flores, Senate President

Liana Wieand, Senate Secretary

SB 55-168, APPROVED on this Day of , 20 by

Kelechi Odunze, Student Body President