Recently, UNLV has taken on the initiative to become a top tier university in research, education, and community impact by 2025. This goal is attainable with the help of diverse groups of faculty, students, staff, alumni, and the community working together. Several steps must be taken in order to achieve this mission to become a leader in education. These steps include: increased research, scholarship, creative activity, and student success, the establishment of an academic health center, increased work with the community in Southern Nevada, and improvements to the UNLV infrastructure and organizational structure.

The first goal to becoming a top tier university is through research, scholarship, and creative activity. Research at UNLV will have to increase. This includes increasing community sponsored research and increasing the amount of faculty researchers that have PhD’s. Another step to increasing research would be to have high rankings within “the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching, federal agencies, and other organizations (i.e., NSF, National Research Council, etc.), particularly Research University/Very High status” (UNLV). The goal of increasing scholarship stems from an increase in research where scholarly publications, grants, and philanthropic support increases. With an increase in faculty research, there is a drive to increase student involvement in research so that students may contribute in numerous ways to faculty research. Along with university research, the mission is to include helping programs outside of the university. This (Continued on pg. 2)
UNLV’s Top Tier Goals (Continued)

also includes a push to contribute with K-12 education and non-profit organizations. Creating startups and jobs is important to the economic growth of Las Vegas, and ultimately, UNLV.

One of the most important goals of becoming a top tier university is to become a nationwide leader in education. This can be achieved by increasing graduation and retention rates. This can also be improved through promoting recruitment efforts to encourage others to attend the university. On campus, students must increase extracurricular engagement. With the move to Top Tier status, there must also be a decrease in student-to-faculty ratios which promote one-on-one teaching and assistance.

Another step is to complete the UNLV School of Medicine and make it thrive. This would include hiring new faculty which also contributes economically to Nevada. The goal is to have “90 students [graduate] by 2030” (UNLV). The proposed economic impact is huge; it will be “worth $800 million per year by 2025” (UNLV). The idea of the UNLV Medical School is to retain many of the students here in Las Vegas, which trickles down to influencing the economy. The medical school also plans on increasing research through philanthropy and grants.

The goal that includes long term success for students and alumni is through community partnership. UNLV plans on further developing an engagement center to foster relationships with partner organizations which will help promote UNLV and the students. This will aid in creating expedient employment opportunities for students in every major. This includes rapid employment and startup success. They also want to increase student and faculty engagement within the community throughout Las Vegas.

The last goal is to create stronger infrastructure, physically and through internal management. They hope to build and renovate buildings on campus. This has already taken place with the new hotel college building being constructed on the north field. Internal infrastructure improvements include promoting campus life, a positive culture, improving logistics, and creating a positive workplace for faculty and students alike. Through all this, there is hope that there will be an increase in satisfaction with the university.

The impact on students and alumni are exponential. Students will have more opportunities within their studies and in extracurricular activities. With state-of-the-art infrastructure, there will be new buildings that improve educational potential. An increase in faculty will lower the student-to-faculty ratio which allows for more individualistic teaching styles. The UNLV Medical School will promote undergraduates to pursue a medical degree. Alumni success will be important because of community engagement where students can be hired right away. There will also be the “creation of a mentoring network of UNLV alumni” which ensures success for current students. The medical school will also help encourage students to stay in Southern Nevada and help expand the economy.

The Top Tier Mission for UNLV has numerous goals and plans listed. The end result is beneficial to all involved with UNLV and the Las Vegas community. This will help promote a better economy and create more jobs for Las Vegans. More about the Top Tier Vision and Mission can be explored at https://www.unlv.edu/toptier/vision.


For more information on the diversity report please visit the following link: http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/campus-ethnic-diversity?src=stats.
Celebration of Culture

By Judyana Hernandez, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

We all know that the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) is a diverse university and community. What better way to celebrate all of those cultural backgrounds and differences than UNLV’s Festival of Communities?

This festival will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 12:00pm-3:00pm, at the East mall. Free parking is available at any parking space that reads “Student” or “Staff.” You may also park in the southeast area of campus for your convenience. Bring your whole family to enjoy a day of discovery, live entertainment, crafts, activities, and of course, all of the delicious foods from around the world. Admission is also free!

This is a celebration of diversity as well as a global awareness tradition that UNLV students have been putting together for almost 10 years. Students would love for everyone to join the cause and have a little fun. The mission for this event is to make people more aware of the many cultural backgrounds represented here at UNLV and in the local community. This event also promotes international awareness in order to celebrate various places of origin, backgrounds, and beliefs.

This festival showcases the rich cultural diversity at UNLV through decorative crafts, art, and live music. Bring your children for the “Activities and Kid Zone” at the festival where they can have their faces painted, request Henna art, or just plain have fun in the bounce houses. We hope that you join us for this celebration of culture in April here at UNLV. For additional information you may also visit http://www.unlv.edu/festivals

Rebel Diversity:
OISS Role in Assisting International Students

By Carly Kidwell, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

The city of Las Vegas is internationally recognized as a hub for entertainment and tourism, and as one would imagine, there is a large amount of diversity in the Las Vegas community. According to U.S. News & World Report in 2012, UNLV achieved the status of second most ethnically diverse university in the United States. Attending a diverse university is a great benefit to students; diversity promotes learning with a worldly perspective, allows students to experience perspectives with others rather than people just like them, and generally produces more well-rounded individuals. One of UNLV’s undergraduate learning outcomes focuses on global and multicultural knowledge and awareness. With such a high degree of diversity on campus, UNLV’s students are receiving great opportunities to expand their awareness of global knowledge and become graduates with skills
Rebel Diversity (Continued)

that some university graduates do not have the opportunity to receive. Diversity cannot be recreated. UNLV’s students are lucky to learn in an environment that is so conducive of personal growth that helps students succeed in college and beyond.

A lot of the diversity one would encounter on campus can be credited to the large amount of international students that choose to further their education in the United States rather than their native countries. For international students, the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is the place to go. The OISS provides countless resources for international students, from help with housing, work, and overall transitioning into life in the U.S. The OISS has resources in all areas of transitioning to an American school, not only do they help with academic challenges, they also help international students with life challenges. The OISS provides assistance for international students with on and off campus housing, visa and travel information, and even finding employment. The OISS serves many different types of international students. When visiting the website, acronyms such as F-1, J-1, and H-1B can be confusing, however these acronyms are just visa statuses that can help the OISS better serve international students based on their needs. F-1 for example, is a common visa status for international students that allow students to live in the United States while maintaining a full course load. Currently the Office of International Students and Scholars serves an increasing number of students. In 2014, the OISS served 1,185 international students on student visas. Coming to an entirely new university is hard enough. A new country seems like an exceptionally challenging feat but the OISS works to help students and scholars make the transition as fluidly and smoothly as possible. To learn more about the OISS visit their website at: http://www.unlv.edu/Iss or visit the office in SSC-A suite 201.

Diversity is one of the many benefits of attending UNLV. If you want to learn more about diversity on campus don’t be afraid to get involved. By visiting a diversity workshop, joining The International Council, or joining Students Organizing Diversity Activities (SODA), you can help encourage cultural and global awareness at UNLV. April is Asian, Pacific Islander & Middle Eastern Heritage Month, so go celebrate diversity with your rebel community!

Jean Nidetch Women’s Center

By Natalie Costa, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center (JNWC) is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. Each year they plan and promote special events related to sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and parenting issues. These events are centered around identity months to help educate the UNLV community on how to put an end to these issues and help be a part of the solution. In 2015, they educated over 3,963 students about interpersonal violence. In addition to teaching, research, and advisement, UNLV faculty and staff often also act as confidences, mentors, and authority figures.

Throughout each semester, the JNWC offers great opportunities for students and staff to get involved. Whether you are interested in...
Jean Nidetch Women’s Center

By Natalie Costa, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

donating your time to help with one of the annual events or want to become one of their volunteers, there is something for everyone interested in getting involved on campus with their anti-violence efforts. In the fall semesters, JNWC offers “Take Back the Night” and “RAINN Day.” During the spring they offer “Denim Day” and the “Vagina Monologues.” They are always looking for student volunteers and Campus Advocacy and Resource Empowerment (CARE) Advocates. These volunteers assist victims and survivors by helping them learn how to effectively cope with crisis intervention, effective communication, and safety planning. If interested in joining a committee or helping with an event, you may email them at jnwc@unlv.edu.

Additionally, the JNWC is pleased to offer the Jean Nidetch Scholarship to incoming freshmen who meet the scholarship requirements. Awards are available up to $2,500 over a year period. The application deadline is April 26, 2016. To learn more please visit: https://www.unlv.edu/womenscenter/scholarships.

The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center is located in the Student Services Complex-A room 255, down the hall from financial aid. The center is open to all UNLV students and staff members. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All of the above information and more can be found through: https://www.unlv.edu/womenscenter/about or call 702-895-4475.

The ASC’s Math Bridge Program

By Vanessa Huanca, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

The Math Bridge Program is available through the Academic Success Center and aims to help first-year students (29 credits or less) who placed in either Math 95, 96, or 120. Math Bridge plays a role in helping students meet math requirements for their specific majors. In this program, students refresh their math skills using Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS), a web-based, assessment and learning system. Once enrolled in this program, students should become open to learning new sets of study skills as college is different than high school. This program allows students to transition with helping hands. What makes the Math Bridge program different from simply using ALEKS is that it provides the support of in-person learning support, scheduled time to achieve these goals, and allows students to become familiar with campus and learn about UNLV resources. Math Bridge is held in computer labs on campus. The lessons, facilitated by Math Bridge leaders, are presented in a way that tailors information based on student needs and skills.
Applying to graduate school is a bit like producing a film. There’s a lot of paperwork with plenty of I’s to dot and T’s to cross. It is quite the foul construct conceived by the archaic bureaucratic processes of capitalism, but I digress. There are several steps in the application process, so one must be cognizant and ensure that everything that’s asked for is clearly presented. It is a lengthy and sometimes expensive process, but approaching it with a logical and utilitarian mindset (like that of a film producer), you can find the schools you most identify with on a financial and personal level. With that in mind, you’ll soon be on your way to a master’s program!

I’m studying film and wish to pursue a graduate education in my field. I applied to the American Film Institute Conservatory in Los Angeles. It was the only graduate program I wished to apply for because I respect the work of many AFI fellows and the institution’s focus on the professional world. The conservatory is a pressure cooker, preparing its fellows for professional life through real set experiences. Having worked directly with both current fellows and alumni, I can say that their work ethic and creativity are unparalleled.

While there were no exams to speak of, I was required to submit various samples of creative work. The approach to the samples is similar to that of an exam. As one must be thoroughly prepared for a standardized test, the same rings true for creative samples. Hours are put into study time, so too must they be spent on refining a creative work. No matter what the

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The ASC’s Math Bridge Program (Continued)

This program is offered in the summer to allow students to prepare for their next level of math courses. Besides all of the great benefits that students receive from this program, the most appealing to many might be its cost. It is free for all students who complete the course. The only cost that students pay is the $25.00 fee for ALEKS. A remedial math course at UNLV can cost up to 28 times that amount! Aside from the cost benefit, students can also take the ALEKS placement test up to five times while in Math Bridge. So there are multiple chances to succeed and there is a team of staff willing to help students. Please be aware that accepted students should be prepared to complete the course as space is limited.

If you are interested please enroll right away! Have a great summer! Want more information? Please refer to: [https://](https://http://topics.info.com/American-Film-Institute_2205)

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The Anguish of Anticipation, A Short Guide on Applying to Graduate

By Garrett Wilson, Hixson-Lied Success Scholar

Applying to graduate school is a bit like producing a film. There’s a lot of paperwork with plenty of I’s to dot and T’s to cross. It is quite the foul construct conceived by the archaic bureaucratic processes of capitalism, but I digress. There are several steps in the application process, so one must be cognizant and ensure that everything that’s asked for is clearly presented. It is a lengthy and sometimes expensive process, but approaching it with a logical and utilitarian mindset (like that of a film producer), you can find the schools you most identify with on a financial and personal level. With that in mind, you’ll soon be on your way to a master’s program!

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circumstance, preparation and refinement are critical.

I had two mentors that helped me prepare for the application process. One was the head of the UNLV film department and the other was an alumnus of the AFI producing program. They were invaluable in giving me notes for my samples and personal statement. Having worked with and been taught by AFI alumni, I included that information in my application, both in the resume and the personal statement in order to expand on the relationships I built.

The personal statement is an important part of the application, but I don’t believe it should be approached as a daunting task. The selection committee only wishes to see who you are as a person and if you’ll be a good fit for the program. Chances are, if you’ve done your research, you most definitely are. The best perspective to have while working on the personal statement is to be honest with yourself and dig deep. It’s as simple as that.

When searching for graduate programs, it’s important to keep in mind what’s right for you. For me, I was going to be in about $200,000 in debt wherever I went, so it was important to select the program that was right for me. I’m a particularly picky individual, so I would not suggest applying to one school. I would narrow the pool down to about five to seven. I would consider geography, cost, and most importantly: the vibe. Visit those campuses if you can. Immerse yourself in its culture for a day. See if you can vibe with it.

Before starting the process, I wish I would have known how time consuming it was. I spent many a late night getting all my ducks in a row. If I had to do it again, which I may very well have to, I would schedule times to work on the application. That’s where the producer mindset comes in. Unfortunately, I’m not a producer, as I was selected as an Alternate for the AFI’s screenwriting program. With that being said, I must now face the anguish of anticipation. It could be as late as August 19th to see if I will have a spot in the program. I have many tough months ahead of me, so this is where I must bid you farewell. The true test begins now.