Nevada Public Higher Education Fact Sheet, 2016

Name of the governing board overseeing public higher education in Nevada: The Board of Regents of the University of Nevada.¹

- The board is often referred to as the "Nevada Board of Regents," or the "NSHE Board of Regents." Such references are erroneous, as no such entity legally exists.

Number of two-year public higher education institutions in Nevada: 1

- The College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin College, and Western Nevada College offer associate and bachelor degrees, and are classified by the federal government as four-year institutions.² The federal government does not have a classification for "community colleges." At this date, Truckee Meadows Community College is the sole public, two-year institution in Nevada.

Number of states with higher education systems similar to Nevada: 3

- Nevada is one of four states featuring single governing boards and central funding for the administration of public higher education institutions.³ The other three states, Alaska, Hawaii, and North Dakota, have a combined population that equals Nevada's population.

Number of external studies recommending separation of Nevada's two and four-year institutions from the state university: 5

- Five external reports released in 1968 (Arthur Little Company), 2002 (Rand Corporation), 2011 (Brookings Institution, Brookings Mountain West, and SRI International), 2012 (SRI International), and The Lincy Institute (2014) have recommended separate governance structures, and/or funding streams for Nevada's two and four-year public institution of higher education.⁴

Number of institutions of higher education in Nevada with smaller total state appropriations than the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE): 4

- The annual state appropriation for NSHE exceeds those of the Desert Research Institute, Great Basin College, Nevada State College, and Western Nevada College.⁵

Number of states with populations between 2 and 3 million with larger administrative agencies than Nevada: 0

- For fiscal year 2016, NSHE has 220 full time equivalent employees. The state with the next largest administrative agency is Mississippi, with 89 employees.⁶
Nevada's ranking in over age 25 population share with at least a four year degree: **47th**

- The United States Census Bureau (2014) reports that 22.5% of Nevadans over the age of 25 possess a bachelor's degree, or higher. The national average is 29.6%.  

Nevada's rank in graduation rate: **49th**

- For 2009, the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) reports that Nevada ranked second to last with a six-year graduation rate of 35.8%. Alaska ranked last at 26.9%. The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that for 2013, Nevada's number of students completing degrees per 100 full-time equivalent undergraduate students was 16.5%, second lowest in the nation. Alaska ranked last at 16.3%. 

Number of higher education institutions in Nevada earning the highest Carnegie Classification: **0**

- Nevada is by far the most populous state without a university classified as a "R1: Highest Research Activity." The University of Nevada, Reno is one of four public, flagship universities with a medical school not to have this classification, and the only such institution in a state with a population greater than one million. 

Nevada's ranking in educational appropriations per full time equivalent (FTE) students: **17th**

- For fiscal year 2014, the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association reports that Nevada appropriated $7,016 per FTE. The national average was $6,552. 

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1 See Nevada Revised Statutes 396.005.
2 See National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.
3 See footnote five and citations there within in Damore, David F. "Advancing Southern Nevada's Regional Priorities: Overview of the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature," Brookings Mountain West, December 2013.
4 In 1978 and 2014 interim committees of the Nevada Legislature studied this issue and in 2011 NSHE issued a report ("Fresh Look at Nevada's Community Colleges") that noted "Nevada does not have a focused, statewide, strategic plan for the state's community colleges which prioritizes their various missions, sets measurable goals for each, and allocates resources accordingly." See, also, The Lincy Institute, "Nevada Community College Governance Historic Timeline."
5 See "FY2016 NSHE Operating Budget."
6 See "FY16 NSHE Self-Supporting Budget," "FY2016 NSHE Operating Budget," and "It Doesn't Take a Consultant to See Where Education Dollars are Wasted," Las Vegas Sun, September 6, 2015.
7 See United States Census Bureau, "Quick Facts."
8 See NCHEMS, "Six-Year Graduation Rates for Bachelor's Students" and The Chronicle of Higher Education "College Completion using National Center for Education Statistics Data."