

# President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) invite nominations and applications for the position of President of UNLV. The University's next President will offer innovative and dynamic leadership to advance UNLV's legacy of success.

The next President will bring the leadership skills necessary to advance the mission and vision of UNLV. The President will be an innovative, inclusive and collaborative leader with a focus of promoting initiatives, priorities and success of the university and its students, faculty, and staff while fostering close ties with the Southern Nevada communities.

The President reports to the Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) and is accountable through the Chancellor to the Board of Regents of NSHE.



# **About UNLV**

UNLV is a doctoral-degree-granting institution of more than 30,000 students and 3,500 faculty and staff that is recognized as "very high research activity" by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. UNLV offers a broad range of respected academic programs and is on a path to join the top tier of national public research universities. The university is committed to recruiting and retaining top students and faculty, educating the region's diverse population and workforce, driving economic activity through increased research and community partnerships and creating an academic health center for Southern Nevada.

Since first classes were held on campus in 1957, UNLV has transformed itself from a small branch college into a thriving urban research institution. Along the way, this urban university has become an indispensable resource in one of the country's fastest-growing and most enterprising cities.

# **UNLV's Top Tier Mission**

UNLV's diverse faculty, students, staff, and alumni promote community well-being and individual achievement through education, research, scholarship, creative activities and clinical services. This stimulates economic development and diversification, fosters a climate of innovation, promotes health, and enriches the cultural vitality of the communities served.

By 2025, UNLV will be recognized as a top tier public university in research, education, and community impact.

#### **UNLV's Core Themes**



The core themes of UNLV, the objectives, and their indicators of achievement express the mission of the university. The core themes describe in broad statements what UNLV plans to accomplish and reflect the values that are shared by faculty and staff.

**Core Theme 1**: Advance Student Achievement

**Core Theme 2**: Promote Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity

**Core Theme 3**: Create an Academic Health Center

**Core Theme 4**: Foster Community Partnership



# **A Different Value**

UNLV is an affordable choice, costing just half the price of the national average. In addition to low-cost tuition, most of the students benefit from loans, grants, scholarships, and work-study programs to help pay their college expenses, ensuring an affordable education.

# A Daring Opportunity

UNLV is moving toward a future as a Top Tier university with innovative academic programs, expanded research opportunities for both undergraduates

and graduates and new community partnerships that will greatly enhance student experience both in and out of the classroom.

#### A Diverse Place

One of the most valuable assets is the university's location right in the heart of fabulous Las Vegas. The campus location provides unique connections to industry, technology and leadership exclusive to the Greater Las Vegas community and surrounding areas.



UNLV has created one of the most affirmative and dynamic academic environments in the country, earning the title of one of the most diverse universities for undergraduates by *U.S. News & World Report.* But it does not stop there. The faculty is a highly diverse group at this minority serving/HSI student centric university. Everyone's experience at UNLV is different from the next, but through their diversity and academic environment, they make sure everyone has the opportunity to succeed.



#### A Diverse Curriculum

Because of UNLV's multifaceted student population, UNLV offers a robust, dynamic array of academics and support services to meet their needs and prepare them to enter the workforce.

# **A Supportive Campus**

UNLV's faculty and staff are committed to creating an environment where students thrive as they prepare for fulfilling careers and lives.

# A Pioneering Rebel Spirit

It's a place where things happen. It's a place to define your own journey. It's a place where you have free rein to determine your future and push the boundaries. UNLV provides infinite possibilities in different, daring, and diverse ways.





# Research at UNLV

UNLV's drive to rise among the nation's top public research universities took a major step forward this year when it was elevated to R1 "very high research activity" status by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

R1 is the gold standard for university research classifications, and out of 4,000 institutions nationwide, UNLV now is one of just 130 with the distinction. UNLV had been classified as "high research activity," or R2, in Carnegie's last update in 2015.

# **UNLV Attains Highest Status as Research University**

University joins the ranks of just 130 institutions nationwide classified by Carnegie as "very high research activity" – or R1 – the gold standard for university research metrics.

This change came as UNLV continues to press forward on its <u>Top Tier Initiative</u>, a campus-wide strategic plan to join the ranks of the nation's top public universities in research, education, and community impact by 2025. This plan includes earning the top classification by Carnegie.

According to <u>Carnegie's classification website</u>, data from the National Center for Education Statistics and National Science Foundation (NSF) surveys is pulled to determine the classifications. The organization calculates research activity in a variety of categories, including but not limited to doctoral degrees granted, NSF-reported research expenditures, and the number of post-doctoral and non-faculty researchers.

NSF – Reported research expenditures are on the rise at UNLV, from \$42 million in fiscal year 2015 to \$66 million in 2017. The university has also grown its doctoral programs across the disciplines and is awarding

more doctoral degrees overall, moving from 124 research doctoral degrees in 2013-14 to 162 degrees in 2017-18.

The university was able to reach this major milestone of its Top Tier strategic plan through the hard work, dedication and ongoing collaboration among college deans, chairs, faculty, and staff. This is a clear testament to the spirit of the UNLV faculty, staff and students whose creativity and innovation drive so much of the university's research.



UNLV joins 18 other institutions, including the University of Nevada, Reno, as new arrivals to Carnegie's top classification for 2018.

The Carnegie Classification has been the leading framework for classifying the research activities of colleges and universities in the U.S. for more than 40 years. The first classification was published in 1973, nearly 20 years before UNLV awarded its first Ph.D. in English in 1991.

UNLV's first Carnegie designation was earned in 1987, when it was classified as a "Comprehensive I"

institution, recognizing its offering of graduate education through master's degrees. Seven years later, UNLV was reclassified as a "Comprehensive Master's-granting University," with more than 40 master's degrees, and earned a "Doctoral/Research University-Intensive" designation in 2000.

Since 2000 UNLV has greatly expanded its graduate degree programs campus-wide and now serve over 5,000 students, including a School of Dental Medicine and the Boyd School of Law... both firsts for graduate and professional students in Nevada and a School of Public Health. UNLV awarded 171 professional practice degrees – in law and dental medicine – last year. Those numbers will rise with the 2017 launch of the UNLV School of Medicine. The School of Medicine will be a significant part of the city-wide initiative creating the Las Vegas Medical District.



# **Rankings at UNLV**



# School of Nursing Ranked No. 1 in Nevada

May 28, 2019, UNLV's School of Nursing was ranked No. 1 in Nevada, and was named one of the best nursing schools in the nation with a grade of 96.54 percent by NCareers.org.

A team of nurse educators, nurse practitioners, RNs, and LPNs evaluated 1,892 RN programs on a number of factors important to nursing students including first-time NCLEX passing rates, accreditation, program offerings and more.

# **Civil Engineering Earns Worldwide Ranking**

Jan. 18, 2019, UNLV's College of Engineering's Civil Engineering program was ranked between 150-200\* out of 4000 programs internationally by the Shanghai Rankings Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU).

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) is published by the independent Shanghai Ranking Consultancy and uses six objective indicators to rank world universities.

\* Note: Programs 101+ are listed in a rank range, not with an individual number.



# Moving Up: Legal Writing Program Tops; Law School Jumps in National Rankings



Mar. 20, 2018, UNLV's Lawyering Process Program was named best in the nation for legal writing, which prepares Boyd School of Law students for legal practice by focusing on analysis, persuasion theory, professionalism, and other lawyering skills. UNLV Law ranks 59th overall, its highest-ever spot in the U.S. News and World Report's graduate and professional school rankings.

# UNLV Ranked Among Best in Nation for Veterans

Dec. 20, 2017, UNLV was ranked as one of the best

universities in the nation for veterans, according to The Military Times.

The Military Times rankings, formerly known as Best for Vets, are based on a survey of the veteran support services, special rules, accommodations, and financial incentives offered to students with military ties. The survey also considers data from the Veterans Affairs and Defense Departments. UNLV ranked 62 among four-year institutions, with more than 600 colleges participating in the survey.

## **UNLV: Most Diverse Campus in the Nation**

Sep. 12, 2017, UNLV has reached the top of *U.S. News & World Report's* annual listing of the nation's most diverse universities for undergraduates. After two years in second, UNLV is now in a three-way tie for first in the publication's Best Ethnic Diversity category. It's a reflection of this Southern Nevada community and a factor that elevates the value of a UNLV education. As the nation becomes more diverse as a whole, companies increasingly will look for employees who can lead diverse workforces.

# Library Ranks in Top 15 for Research Productivity





Aug. 4, 2017, UNLV University Libraries ranked 15th for research productivity in a recent study of U.S. academic libraries. The study appeared in the May 2017 issue of the journal College & Research Libraries.

# Lawyer Up: Law School Earns Highest-Ever Overall Ranking

Mar. 14, 2017, UNLV's Boyd School of Law earned its highest-ever overall ranking in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* list of best law schools. Boyd ranked 62nd, a 16-spot jump over last year. Boyd also fared well in category rankings, including 19th for part-time law program, 2nd in legal writing, and 9th in dispute resolution.

# **Hotel College Named World's Best**

Mar. 14, 2017, Harrah Hotel College was named the world's best for hospitality and leisure management by the QS World University Rankings. The annual international rankings highlight programs worldwide in nearly 50 disciplines and this year added the hospitality category.

# Part-Time MBA Program Ranks in Top 100

Mar. 14, 2017, *U.S. News & World Report* named the Lee Business School's part-time MBA program 95th in the nation.





# **Core Themes/Goals**

#### **Student Achievement**

UNLV recruits, retains, and graduates a diverse body of students through innovative learning experiences, access to mentoring and research opportunities, and the vibrant campus community.

# Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

UNLV fosters a climate of innovation in which faculty and students produce high-quality, widely disseminated, and influential research, scholarship, and creative activities.

# **Community Partnerships**

UNLV stimulates economic development and diversification, fosters a climate of innovation, and enriches the cultural vitality of the communities served.

#### **Academic Health Center**

The Academic Health Center (AHC) fosters a dynamic, humanistic environment that: 1) promotes an innovative curricula that prepares collaborative practice-ready workforce; 2) advances a synergistic pathway toward excellence in research and scholarship; 3) fosters collaborative. comprehensive person-centered clinical services: reciprocal 4) stimulates community engagement that enhances the visibility and demonstrates the value of the Academic Health Center.



#### **Infrastructure and Shared Governance**

To accomplish the other four core themes/goals, UNLV continually develops and leverages the conditions necessary for success, which includes an effective organizational structure, an improved infrastructure, a

service-oriented culture, meaningful faculty engagement in shared governance, and the capacity for informed decision-making and informed risk-taking.

# The Campus



Located minutes away from the Las Vegas Strip, and just a short drive from numerous attractions, the 330-acre campus is at the heart of this thriving city. The campus is also just a few minutes from McCarran International Airport which served nearly 50,000,000 passengers in 2018. McCarran is a major aviation hub with non-stop European and Asian flights.

Recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus USA, the

entire campus is an arboretum - an outdoor museum for trees and shrubs, both native and introduced.

From the golf pro shop and test kitchen in Hospitality Hall to the custom-designed training center for nursing students where manikins talk, blood is made by the gallon, and life-saving skills are mastered, innovative spaces enhance learning experiences for students.

# **Sports**

Tradition at UNLV is synonymous with athletics. Support for UNLV Athletics provides student-athletes with opportunities to excel in their sports, their classes, and in the world. UNLV has 17 Division 1 sports and in 2018, student-athletes posted a record high combined GPA of 3.03.





# Men's Sports

Basketball
Baseball
Football
Golf
Soccer
Swimming & Diving
Tennis

#### **Women's Sports**

Basketball
Cross Country
Golf
Soccer
Softball
Swimming & Diving
Tennis
Track & Field (indoor and outdoor)
Volleyball





# Locale

The selected candidate will discover an environment where professional satisfaction and career achievement are paired with optimal quality of life in a locale with abundant opportunities for work and play. Las Vegas has drawn millions of visitors and trillions of dollars in wealth to Southern Nevada, and the economy is on the rise in this *Forbes* #11 "Best City to Start a Business."

In addition to sampling fare from top chefs from around the world, or taking in a spectacular show in the 2018 "Best City for Live Music" (per Vivid Seats), here you can enjoy the First Friday Art Walk in the arts district, featuring local food trucks, booths with local artists displaying their wares, and plenty of live music; cultural centers including The Mob Museum and The Smith Center, which features Broadway shows and the Las Vegas Philharmonic; the Shark Reef at



Mandalay Bay; the Container Park, a three-story outdoor retail and restaurant plaza built entirely from shipping containers; hiking Red Rock Canyon, or visiting the Neon Museum, where old signs take on new life. The Clark County library system is a fantastic resource offering more than a dozen branches across the metro area. Professional sports are now a part of Las Vegas life with the Vegas Golden Knights of the NHL, the Las Vegas Lights of the USL, the Las Vegas Aces of the WNBA, the Las Vegas Aviators (Minor League Baseball team and affiliate of the Oakland Athletics), and coming to Allegiant Stadium in 2020, the Las Vegas Raiders of the NFL.



Las Vegas is an excellent base camp for outdoor recreation and popular hiking and rock-climbing spots including Lake Mead, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park and Valley of Fire State Park. Many major national parks, including Grand Canyon and Zion, are located within a 2 to 3-hour drive. For residents who crave cooler temperatures and snow, the Lee Canyon ski and snowboard area in the Spring Mountains near Mount Charleston (where temperatures are roughly 20 degrees cooler) is a just over an hour's drive from downtown Las Vegas.

Residents here enjoy pleasant suburban communities, world-class restaurants and beautiful parks. Las Vegas features an ultra-reasonable cost of living, with affordable prices on everything from housing to utilities to groceries as compared to most major cities across the nation. The Las Vegas area, including the city of North Las Vegas, has been ranked among the least segregated metropolitan areas in the country. Thanks to its mild winters and ample sunshine, Las Vegas appeals to a variety of age groups, from retirees to millennials. There are plenty of kid-friendly activities available to keep families busy including Springs Preserve, which offers family-friendly events, in addition to its museum exhibits, botanical gardens and unique, desert-themed playground.

It's all here for the academic executive professionally prepared to step up to this key leadership role.





# **Role of the UNLV President**

The President, as Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for the overall management and oversight of the University's vision, strategy and operations. The President reports directly to the Chancellor, and works closely with the Board in implementing Board-directed initiatives, programs, and policies. The President delegates and monitors administrative and operational functions to an executive leadership team reporting to the President.

The President is not only the leader of the campus community, but also the visible representative of UNLV in the local community, organizations of higher education, and the touchstone for alumni, parents and friends of the University. The President is ultimately the face and voice of UNLV and its mission, raising its profile in the community, state, and nation to enhance recruitment and continue the strong financial support necessary to sustain the future of UNLV.

#### The next President of UNLV will:

- Understand and lead the dramatic and dynamic changes that will impact UNLV now and into the future.
- Work with the Nevada System of Higher Education and interact effectively with diverse constituencies, including the state legislature, major corporations and businesses, foundations, rural and urban leaders, and residents from all parts of the state.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the concept of a student-centered institution, with a strong student orientation and a dedication to preparing students for success in a global environment.
- Position the University to compete in today's market, while maintaining the "uniqueness" of the current and long-standing culture.
- Appreciate and work effectively within a vibrant shared governance environment.

- Foster growth in student enrollment, student retention rates, academic programs, and elevation of the academic success of students.
- Work effectively to continue the support from city, county, state/federal elected officials and governmental entities.
- Ensure that the University continues to be a leader in regional economic development and will help to establish, direct, and maintain excellent community relations.
- Be innovative and serve as the catalyst for innovation across the University with a multidisciplinary team approach.
- Ensure that the University provides a high-quality faculty and educational curriculum for the benefit of its students.
- Understand and address the needs and challenges of 1st generation and non-traditional student populations; appreciate what it means to be an urban public research university.
- Support a diverse faculty, staff, and student population, and encourage cultural diversity throughout the institution's curriculum, activities and community involvement.
- Understand and promote the value of the full array of the University's academic, research, scholarly, and creative programs and initiatives.
- Promote the establishment of K-12 and community college partnerships.
- Work in concert with NSHE and its constituent institutions to foster and grow mutually beneficial relationships.
- Ensure that the institution acquires the necessary public and private resources for successful achievement of the University's goals and objectives, engaging in fundraising activities that increase the University's financial position and engaging with an active alumni association.
- Advance and expand upon virtual/online and distance learning opportunities (including the MGM College Opportunity Program), to ensure leading edge technology and excellence in instruction, curriculum, consistency, and follow-up with online students, and growing online graduate study offerings.
- Develop, advance and fortify alliances with business, industry, government, academia and community groups.
- Position the University to continue its successes in academic program development, and national and international prominence.
- Promote the role of collegiate athletics and its contribution to the life of a major public university and its communities.





# **Presidential Attributes**

- A passionate advocate for higher education and forward-thinking visionary.
- An economic driver appreciating the impact that the University has on the economic climate of the city, state and nation. An integrator of the University with the community.
- Knowledgeable about key issues affecting public universities, including enrollment and retention strategies and innovations in education.
- An astute listener who makes it a priority to know the faculty, staff, students, and needs of the students and institution.
- An inspiring communicator with the skill and intuition necessary to hear, understand, and unify
  multiple perspectives of the complex issues facing students, campuses, and public higher
  education and to help advance the University's mission now and into the future.
- An engaging and visible presence on campus and in the community; approachable by students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, the local community, and other friends of the University.
- A motivator who leads by inspiring commitment to the institution and its objectives.
- A collaborative leader and team player who can bring together varied constituencies for a common vision and purpose. A supporter of shared governance and decision-making.
- An individual with the highest personal integrity, ethics, and an executive presence demonstrating a strong moral compass with kindness, humility, and a sense of humor.
- A change agent and experienced manager of change, who is industrious and resourceful, with an understanding of where resources exist and how to access and leverage them.
- Willing to foster and promote creativity and innovation, and recognize failure as a part of the growth process.
- Effective at delegating and working at a high strategic level, engendering trust in the leaders surrounding the President to perform with excellence and accountability.
- Compelling and energetic with a demonstrated history of strategizing, charting a course, and engaging multiple stakeholders.
- Willing to engage in and skilled at fundraising. Knowledgeable of large capital campaigns.
- A strong leader who possesses the business acumen to oversee and orchestrate a large complex enterprise, along with understanding of how business supports higher education.
- An individual who possesses the financial sophistication required to manage a financially complex institution, ensuring proper administration of the financial affairs of the University, including accounting, financial oversight and financial report preparation functions.





# The Next President of UNLV will Possess

- Strong interpersonal skills, with an open communication style, both written and spoken.
- The ability to build deep and lasting relationships with donors and the philanthropic community, articulating the case for supporting UNLV with enthusiasm.
- A record of successful leadership experience in a complex environment, such as a research university.
- Clear evidence of creative problem solving, innovation and successful entrepreneurial activities and initiatives.
- A record of successful resource generation and a robust skill set and passion for advancement through means such as private and foundation fundraising, enrollment growth and the creation of new programs.
- A track record of creating distinctiveness within an organization.
- An earned doctorate, a comparable terminal degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience.





# **Key Attractors**

Key points the organization believes will be strong attractors to top candidates:

- An active, growing community with a rich history and great sense of pride and diversity. A place where the people are friendly and welcoming, and you will find "something for everyone."
- A vibrant, innovative city. A city that is a university "city" not a college "town". Simply meaning that there are opportunities beyond imagination waiting here.
- This is a career-defining opportunity to serve as Chief Executive Officer for a financially sound, forward-thinking, prominent higher education institution to help position the University for even greater levels of achievement and innovation.
- Grasp the opportunity to lead a distinctive university that follows its own path rather than modeling another institution.
- The culture of the University and the community is one of hands-on, "sleeves rolled up" work ethic, characterized by competent students, staff and faculty who are committed to high quality, creativity, innovation and efficiency in all endeavors. Here students go above and beyond and graduate with amazing success, in close partnership with leaders at UNLV who do the same.

- Faculty are diverse, talented, collegial and cooperative and are personally invested in the institution
  and community creating an intimate environment where they can have a definitive positive impact
  on the lives of students.
- Career making opportunity to serve as President of one of the largest and most ethnically diverse institution of higher education in the state of Nevada.
- Opportunity to make your mark in taking an institution with a strong foundation and excellent resources "from good to great" and create a legacy of success. A visible leadership role in a key executive position where pivotal decisions well-made will impact a fine institution prepared to recognize and reward success. Enjoy the autonomy to bring your best ideas and create the ideal model within an environment where you will be listened to, heard and affirmed.
- Geography, climate, demographics, and ambiance combine to offer a truly excellent place to live.
   Family members will discover a warm, open community that offers an attractive array of activities, amenities, entertainment, recreation, services and opportunities whether they are looking for topnotch education, meaningful employment, or simply a safe and comfortable place to live.

# Send your cover letter and resume to:

#### UNLVPresident@WhelessSearch.com

# For more information or to discuss this position, contact:

Scott Watson, Co-Founder and Chief Corporate Officer Michael Ballew, Chief Administrative Officer and Managing Partner Florene Stawowy, Senior Search Consultant



UNLV is committed to providing a place of work and learning free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability (whether actual or perceived by others), religion, age, sex/gender (including pregnancy related conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, veteran status (military status or military obligations) in the programs or activities which it operates.