



# **2011-12 Financial Aid Report**

Prepared by the  
Office of Academic and Student Affairs

**June 2013**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

University of Nevada, Reno

Nevada State College

College of Southern Nevada

Great Basin College

Truckee Meadows Community College

Western Nevada College

Desert Research Institute

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# Executive Summary

The mission of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is to provide higher education services to the citizens of the State consistent with the State's resources. The NSHE Board of Regents and its eight institutions strive to ensure that no student is denied a college education due to an inability to afford the cost of attendance. While the State has made progress in recent years, Nevada continues to rank well below the national average — 44th in the nation (2011) — in the number of low-income students attending college. The cost of attending college is out of reach for many students and families, and financial aid plays a critical role in bridging this gap.

A strong financial aid system is an essential component for assuring access to education and ensuring student persistence and graduation. In order to monitor and measure progress in available financial aid programs, NSHE System Administration produces an annual financial aid report. The information provided in this report is critical for monitoring the impact of financial aid on the *Strategic Directions* of the Board of Regents, particularly those related to student access and success.

In 2011-12, total aid disbursed to students reached its highest level ever at \$530.2 million. This represents a 69.5 percent increase from 2007-08 levels, and a 2.7 percent increase from 2010-11. Nevada State College, at 250.1 percent, realized the greatest five-year increase in total aid disbursed as well as the greatest one-year increase, at 25.2 percent. Just as in past years, in 2011-12, loans comprised the largest proportion (49.6 percent) of aid disbursed at NSHE institutions, while grants saw the greatest (192.6 percent) five-year increase. Breaking down the increase in grants between 2010-11 and 2011-12, a large factor was the \$5.7 million increase (32.2 percent) in the Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award program (RHEOA) - also known as Student Access Aid. In addition, the Pell Grant, which increased by 3.9 percent over the prior year, accounted for an additional \$4.5 million of grant aid to NSHE students. Also important to note, for the third consecutive year, 2011-12 saw another increase in the percentage of need-based aid to NSHE students, this time by 6.2 percent.

For only the second time since the inception of the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship program in 2000-01, RHEOA comprised a greater percentage of Nevada State financial assistance to students than the merit-based scholarship program, at 48.7 percent versus 31.2 percent. In April 2010, the Board of Regents adopted a policy mandating a goal for increased allocations to student financial assistance. The policy establishes target amounts to be achieved by 2022-23, requiring the distribution of at least 10 percent of the total registration fee to be dedicated to student financial assistance at the community colleges (lower division) and at least 15 percent of the total registration fee to be dedicated to student financial assistance for all other institutions (including upper-division at the community colleges), net the amounts distributed to other fee categories. Of these funds, at least 80 percent of undergraduate dollars must be awarded as need-based, and for graduate students the requirement is at least 50 percent.

Due to this policy, as well as a commitment by institutions to increase need-based financial assistance to students, the last few award years experienced increases throughout NSHE in the RHEOA program. Even with these increases, however, when looking at financial assistance received by NSHE students, grants from federal sources constituted 79 percent of dollars, which is considerably higher than the national average, at 44 percent. So, while Nevada has come far in terms of increasing its grant assistance, there is room for improvement before it can claim to support higher education students at levels similar to other U.S. states.

As mentioned previously, loans again made up the largest portion (49.6 percent) of financial aid to NSHE students in 2011-12. This was true nationwide as well, although loan growth slowed considerably in Nevada while nationally there was a decrease. For NSHE students, total loan disbursements increased from the prior year by five percent while the decrease nationally was four percent. Regardless, loans continue to be one of the primary options for students to fill gaps in covering their full cost of attendance, and for some students, loans are the only way to finance their higher education. Of course, the drawback to student loans is the debt burden after graduation. In fact, recently there has been a great deal of media coverage of student loan debt and the impacts it is having on our national economy. Loans are particularly burdensome for those students who do not graduate and therefore carry additional debt without a higher income. Data also shows that students who do not graduate are more likely to default.

As mentioned above, the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship program was displaced in 2010-11 from its historical spot as the largest Nevada financial assistance program by RHEOA. This trend continued in 2011-12 and is likely due to several factors. Since 2000, both initial and continuing eligibility requirements of the Millennium Scholarship have been narrowed considerably. Also important to note, the amount of the Millennium award remained static at \$80/\$60/\$40 per credit (university/state college and upper division community college/lower division community college), and in 2005, the maximum award was capped at 12 credits. In the face of ever-increasing tuition and fees, the value of the Millennium Scholarship has been on the decline, as has its ability to influence students to participate in higher education in Nevada.

Given the economic difficulties and budget cuts Nevada experienced over the last several years, it is no surprise that NSHE students continued to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at high rates. In 2011-12, over half of enrolled NSHE students filed a FAFSA, but it is important to note that simply filling out the FAFSA is not the only step to receive financial aid. For many students, institutions are unable to certify eligibility because they have failed to complete their financial aid files. For many others, there simply are not enough funds to go around to all applicants, let alone fully cover documented need. In 2011-12, the total unmet need System-wide was \$368.7 million. This figure represents the unfunded gap that students must manage to make up on their own to cover the cost of education, after their family contribution and all aid sources (in some cases excluding loans) are subtracted from the Cost of Attendance (COA).

## **Methodology**

The 2011-12 *Financial Aid Report* includes information on the amount of financial assistance provided to students attending institutions within the NSHE. The data in this report are provided by the financial aid directors at each NSHE institution. Each fall, institutions submit a detailed expenditure report for each financial aid program administered. In addition to that information, trend analyses are conducted on a rolling five-year period. Comparisons to national data are made where appropriate, with source citations.

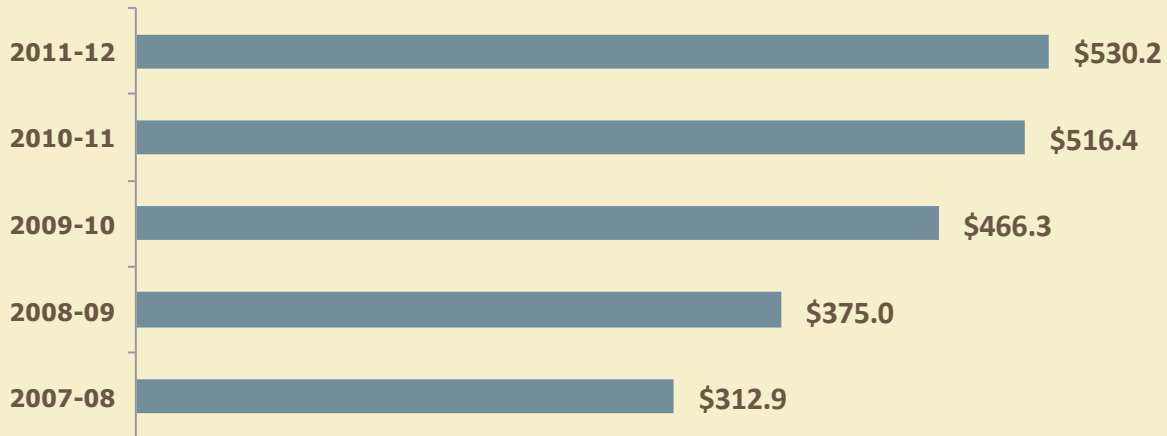
Important to note, beginning with 2011-12, the category of Veterans' Education Benefits was removed entirely from this report. While VA benefits are an important source of financial assistance for college students—in 2010-11, these benefits accounted for five percent of total aid—this decision was made based on the fact that the majority of VA benefits must be estimated by the institutions for reporting purposes as they are often paid directly to the individual student veteran rather than to the institution. All figures for prior years used in this report for comparison have been updated to exclude these benefits and, consequently, will not match figures provided in prior reports.

# NSHE Total Financial Aid

The total amount of financial aid disbursed to students continued to increase during 2011-12 (Figure 1). The increase from the prior year was 2.7 percent, while the five-year increase was 69.5 percent.

Figure 1

## NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed 2007-08 to 2011-12 (in millions)\*



\*Reporting requirements were changed beginning AY 2011-12 to exclude VA Benefits because it was reported as an estimated number in prior years. Prior year figures have been adjusted to exclude VA Benefits so will not match the figures reported in the past NSHE Financial Aid Reports.

All but two institutions experienced an increase in total aid disbursed between 2010-11 and 2011-12. NSC experienced both the greatest one-year and greatest five-year changes, 25.2 and 250.1 percent respectively (Table 1).

Table 1

## NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Institution 2007-08 to 2011-12 (in millions)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
UNLV	150.6	175.6	218.5	237.1	231.0	-2.6%	53.4%
UNR	97.5	111.3	118.4	131.1	143.3	9.4%	47.0%
NSC	5.2	6.5	9.6	14.5	18.1	25.2%	250.1%
CSN	37.2	52.3	72.8	76.1	78.8	3.5%	112.0%
GBC	3.9	4.2	6.0	6.5	7.6	16.2%	96.9%
TMCC	13.2	18.4	29.6	36.8	35.2	-4.3%	165.9%
WNC	5.4	6.6	11.4	14.4	16.2	12.6%	201.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$312.9</b>	<b>\$375.0</b>	<b>\$466.3</b>	<b>\$516.4</b>	<b>\$530.2</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>69.5%</b>

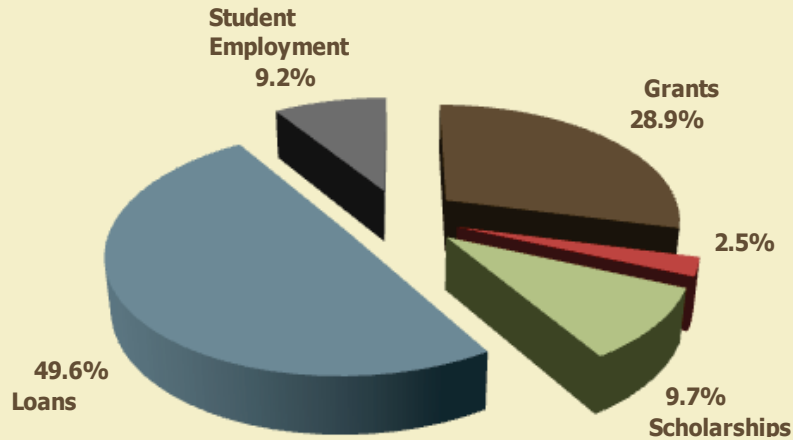
Note: Percent calculations are based on actual and not rounded figures, and therefore may differ if using the rounded figure only.

# NSHE Financial Aid by Category

In 2011-12, the distribution of total aid by category remained similar to the prior year (Figure 2). In 2010-11, loans comprised 48.5 percent of total; student employment 9.5 percent; grants 28.4 percent; grants-in-aid 2.8 percent; and scholarships 10.8 percent.

Figure 2

**NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Category  
2011-2012 (Percent Distribution)**



In 2011-12, the greatest increase from five years prior was in the grants category at 192.6 percent (Table 2). Only grants and loans showed an increase over the prior year.

Table 2

**NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Category  
2007-08 to 2011-12 (in millions)**

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
Grants	52.4	65.3	113.6	146.8	153.4	4.5%	192.6%
Grants-in-Aid*	12.0	12.7	14.0	13.5	13.4	-0.4%	11.4%
Scholarships	60.5	59.6	59.4	56.0	51.6	-7.9%	-14.7%
Loans	144.2	188.0	229.6	250.6	263.1	5.0%	82.5%
Student Employment	43.7	49.4	49.7	49.5	48.7	-1.7%	10.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$312.9</b>	<b>\$375.0</b>	<b>\$466.3</b>	<b>\$516.4</b>	<b>\$530.2</b>	<b>\$2.7%</b>	<b>69.5%</b>

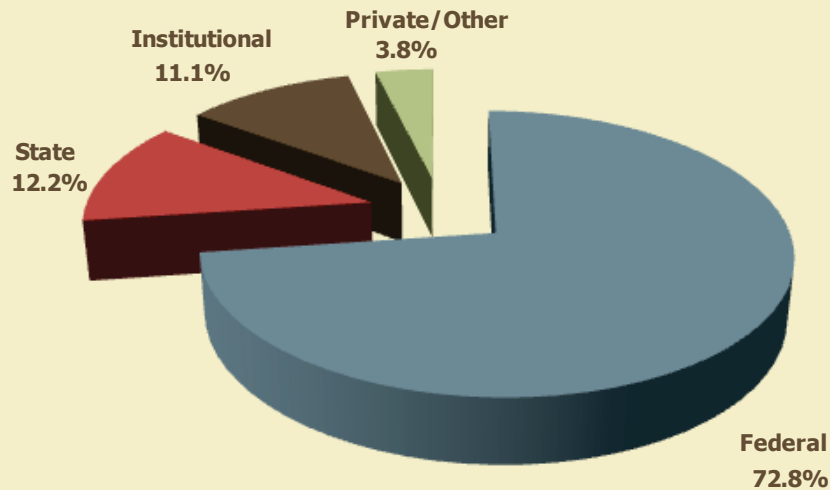
\*For 2007-08 Faculty/Staff/Dependent grants-in-aid are included in figure.

# NSHE Financial Aid by Source

The distribution of total aid by source in 2011-12 also closely resembled the distribution in 2010-11 (Figure 3). In 2010-11, federal sources comprised 72.4 percent of all aid; state, 12.6 percent; institutional, 10.6 percent; and private/other, 4.4 percent.

Figure 3

## NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Source 2011-12 (Percent Distribution)



When considering NSHE total aid disbursed by source in 2011-12, the greatest five-year percentage increase came from federal sources (116.3 percent), while the greatest one-year percentage increase came from institutional sources (8.3 percent) (Table 3). This is different from 2010-11, where both the greatest five-year increase and the greatest one-year increase came from federal sources.

Table 3

## NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Source 2007-08 to 2011-12 (in millions)

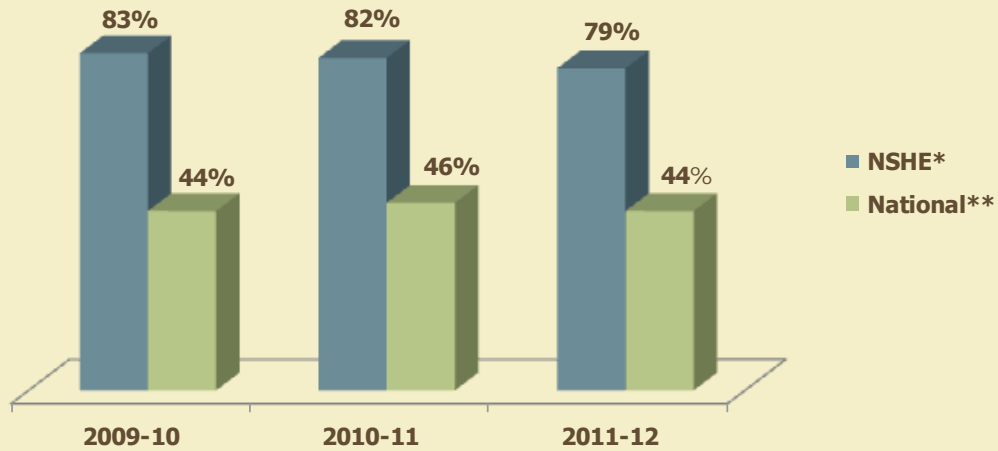
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Federal	178.5	235.8	328.3	373.8	386.1	3.3%	116.3%
State	56.3	65.5	64.3	65.2	64.8	-0.6%	15.2%
Institutional	55.2	47.9	51.6	54.6	59.1	8.3%	7.0%
Private/Other	22.9	25.7	22.1	22.9	20.2	-11.7%	-11.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$312.9</b>	<b>\$375.0</b>	<b>\$466.3</b>	<b>\$516.4</b>	<b>\$530.2</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>69.5%</b>



Despite efforts by the NSHE to direct student fee revenue to financial assistance, a majority of grant aid to students continued to come from Federal sources (Figure 4).

Figure 4

### Percent Grant Aid from Federal Sources 2009-10 to 2011-12



\* Excluding Veterans' Education Benefits

\*\* College Board, *Trends in Student Aid, 2010, 2011 and 2012*



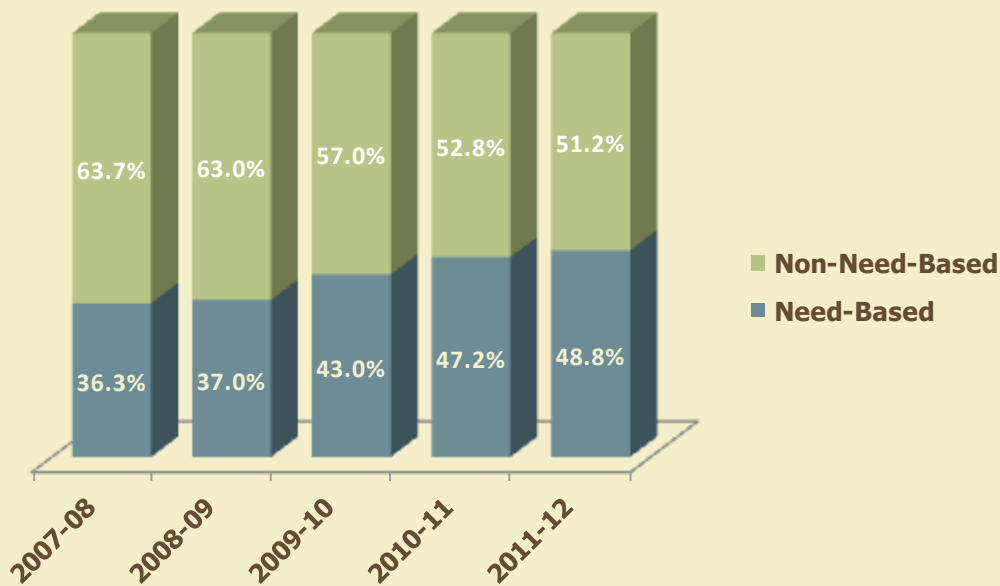
# NSHE Financial Aid by Type

For the fourth year in a row, the percentage of need-based aid disbursed to NSHE students increased, although the increase was modest when compared to the prior year (Figure 5). In 2011-12, the overall one-year increase in percentage of need-based aid was 6.2 percent while the overall percentage of non-need-based aid declined slightly by .05 percent.

As mentioned previously, a large portion of the increase in need-based aid was due to the Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA)—also known as Student Access Aid—which increased by 32.2 percent, accounting for \$5.7 million. In addition, the Pell Grant, which increased by 3.9 percent over the prior year, accounted for an additional \$4.5 million to NSHE students. Yet another factor contributing in this percentage shift from non-need-based to need-based aid was the 4.7 percent decrease in Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) disbursements.

Figure 5

**Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Type  
2007-08 to 2011-12 (Percent Distribution)**



# NSHE Pell Grants

By far the largest federal student grant program, in 2011-12 Pell Grant disbursements accounted for nearly \$34.5 billion dollars in aid to students nationwide. In 2011 dollars this amounted to a seven percent decrease from 2010-11 levels, but a 117 percent increase since 2007-08 (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2011*).

While the aggregated Pell Grant disbursement figures for NSHE do not reflect a corresponding decrease in dollars but instead show a 3.9 percent increase from \$114.8 to \$119.3 million (Figure 6), this can be attributed more to an increase in recipients than an increase in dollars to individual students (Figures 7 and 8). This is different from the trend over the longer term: NSHE Pell Grant disbursements over five years, between 2007-08 and 2011-12, increased by 265.6 percent and recipients only increased by 180.1 percent. In general terms, the five-year trend can be explained by the decline in the Nevada economy during the recession, paired with a few years of expansion of Pell Grant eligibility.

Figure 6

**NSHE Total Pell Grant Disbursements  
2007-08 to 2011-12 (in millions)**

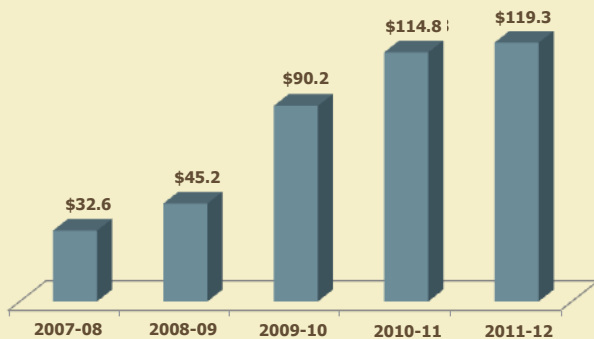
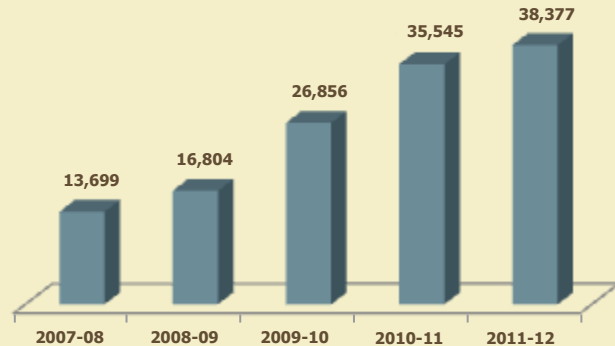


Figure 7

**NSHE Total Pell Grant Recipients  
2007-08 to 2011-12**

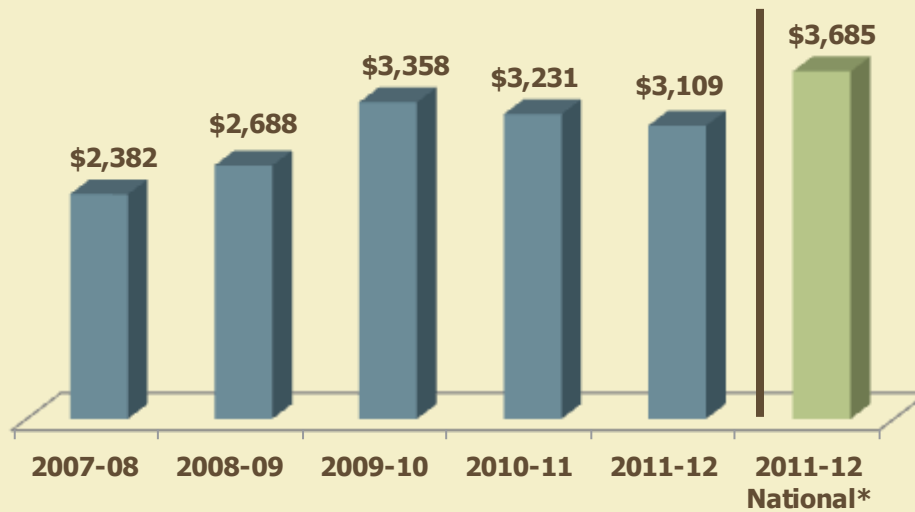


In 2011-12, across the nation 9.4 million students received a Pell Grant award, a reduction of approximately one percent from the prior year (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2012*). For NSHE, the most recent one-year increase in total number of Pell Grant recipients was 8 percent (Figure 7). Again, the five-year trend is much more dramatic, at 180.1 percent, and can be attributed to the factors previously mentioned.

Often the Pell Grant is discussed in terms of the maximum award, although the average student award is lower both among NSHE students and nationally (Figure 8). In 2011-12, the maximum Pell Grant remained flat for a third year at \$5,550 annually. In order to be eligible for the maximum award, students must attend full-time (12 credits per semester) and must have a zero Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), as calculated by the Federal government and based on student FAFSA data. Students with a zero EFC who enroll in less than twelve credits receive a prorated award, generally at 75 percent, 50 percent or 25 percent of the maximum. Having a zero EFC essentially means that the family has no financial resources it can contribute toward the student's Cost of Attendance (COA). It is also important to understand that even students with a zero EFC have no Pell dollars available to them in the summer if they receive a full-time award in both fall and spring. Students who have more than a zero EFC may still qualify for Pell, but at a reduced rate, even if they attend full-time.

Figure 8

### NSHE Average Annual Pell Grant Awards 2007-08 to 2011-12 (by Student)



\*College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2012*



## NSHE Student Loans

For NSHE students, 2011-12 total loan disbursements from all sources increased from the prior year by 5 percent while nationally the same figure decreased by four percent (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2012*). While NSHE clearly lags behind the national trend in this respect, the good news is that the rate of loan growth for NSHE students continued to slow from 22 percent in 2009-10 and nine percent in 2010-11.

Figure 9

**NSHE Total Loan Disbursements - All Sources  
2007-08 to 2011-12 (in millions)**



Five of the seven NSHE institutions make available to students long- and/or short-term loans that are institutionally-funded. In accordance with Board of Regents policy (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 10, Section 23), institutions must report annually on such loans (Table 4). The following table meets that mandate and provides information regarding NSHE loan disbursements.

Table 4

**NSHE Long and Short Term Institutional Loans  
2011-12**

	<b>Total Outstanding June 30, 2011</b>	<b>Total Outstanding June 30, 2012</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>	<b>Total Repayments</b>	<b>Total Written Off*</b>	<b>% Written Off</b>
UNLV	3,649,053	3,473,468	608,224	402,688	30,951	0.8%
UNR	7,676,328	7,908,756	1,720,998	1,335,787	152,784	2.0%
GBC	4,551	4,751	500	300	0	0.0%
TMCC	286,436	251,064	35,730	33,620	37,482	13.1%
WNC	0	0	4,082	4,082	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,616,368</b>	<b>\$11,638,039</b>	<b>\$2,369,534</b>	<b>\$1,776,429</b>	<b>\$221,217</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

\*Write-off category includes Perkins Loans forgiven under federal regulations.

# Nevada Student Financial Assistance Programs

Since the inception of the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship program in 2000, this merit-based program accounted for the majority of state aid, but in 2010-11 that balance shifted, and that trend continued in 2011-12. For the second consecutive year the Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA)—commonly referred to as Student Access Aid—comprised a greater percentage of Nevada State financial assistance to students than the merit-based scholarship program (Table 5). As explained previously, this shift can be attributed to three essential causes: a Board policy change requiring a percent of registration fees be dedicated to financial assistance for students; a concerted effort by institutions to increase need-based aid for students; and a decline in the utilization of the Millennium Scholarship.

Table 5

**NSHE State Program Disbursements  
2011-12 (in millions)**

	<b>Dollars Disbursed</b>	<b>% Total</b>
Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award*	35.8	48.7%
Nevada Grants-in-Aid	13.4	18.3%
Regents' Service Program	1.4	1.8%
Millennium Scholarship	22.9	31.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73.4</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Of total RHEOA awards, 68.5% of dollars are funded by a tuition set-aside.



# Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award

As in prior years, the majority of Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) disbursements made to students in 2011-12 were in the form of grants, although some campuses award RHEOA-funded scholarships and work study (Table 6). According to Board policy, at least 80 percent of RHEOA disbursements to undergraduates must be need-based, and at least 50 percent of RHEOA disbursements to graduate students must be need-based. See Appendix A for details on how each NSHE institution awards RHEOA funds.

Table 6

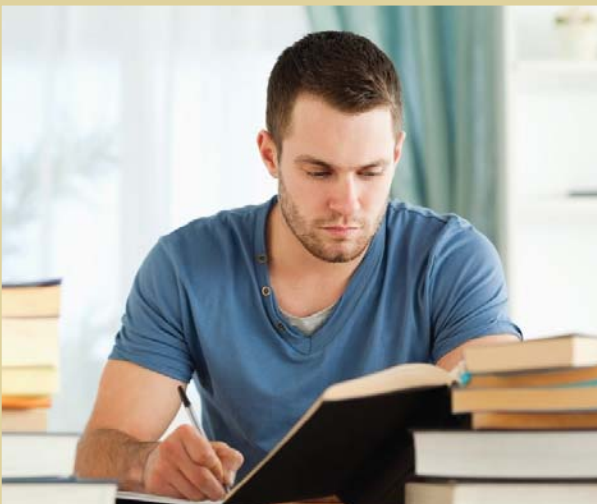
## **NSHE Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award Disbursements 2011-12**

	<b><u>Four-Year Institutions</u></b>			
	<b>UNLV</b>	<b>UNR</b>	<b>NSC</b>	
Grants	15,152,304	9,366,144	1,072,765	
Scholarships	1,192,873	1,958,693	146,500	
Work Study	565,822	272,439	335,369	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,910,999</b>	<b>\$11,597,276</b>	<b>\$1,554,634</b>	

	<b><u>Two-Year Institutions</u></b>			
	<b>CSN</b>	<b>GBC</b>	<b>TMCC</b>	<b>WNC</b>
Grants	1,938,129	290,145	625,642	439,554
Scholarships	1,591,794	29,400	0	0
Work Study	182,967	15,571	425,380	149,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,712,890</b>	<b>\$335,116</b>	<b>\$1,051,021</b>	<b>\$588,878</b>

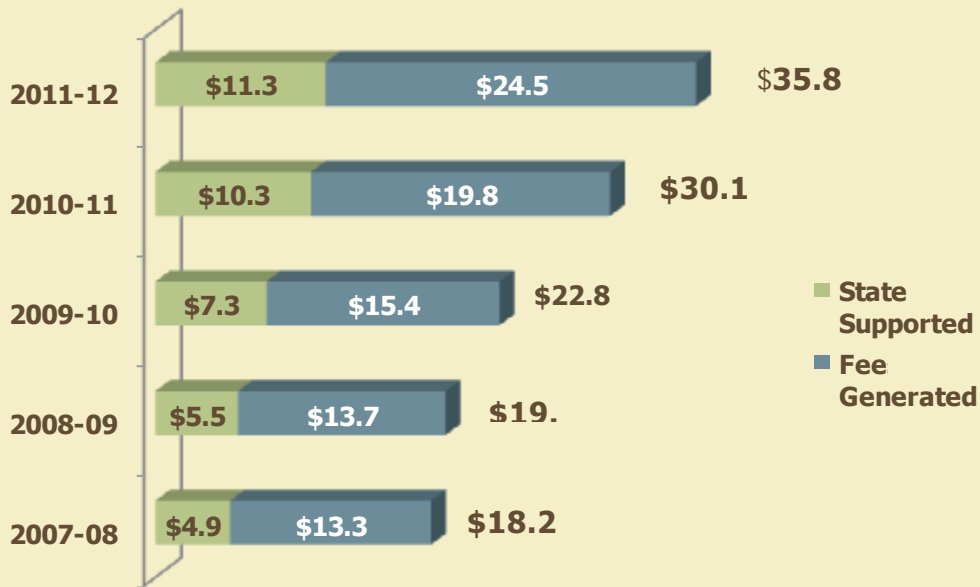
Note: Includes both State-Supported and Fee-Generated RHEOA funds.



Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) disbursements increased by 95.9 percent over the last five-year period to \$35.8 million in 2011-12 (Figure 10). The increase in the last year was 18.8 percent. RHEOA dollars come from two sources: state support and a percentage of registration fees. In 2011-12, the percent of total RHEOA funds from fee-generated dollars was 68.5 percent.

Figure 10

**Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award Disbursements  
2007-08 to 2011-12 (in millions)**





# Regents' Service Program

According to Board policy, institutions must report on the Regents' Service Program (RSP) annually. RSP was established by the Board of Regents "...so that NSHE students can make a contribution to the critical needs of the community" (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 7). Designed primarily as a work program with priority given to literacy and P-16 programs, awards are targeted to students with a high level of skill or knowledge. Table 7 indicates the number of students that participated in the RSP and total dollars disbursed.

Table 7

## **NSHE Regents' Service Program Disbursements 2011-12**

	<b>Students</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>
UNLV	93	276,233
UNR	88	155,364
NSC	54	31,250
CSN	201	577,887
GBC	12	26,406
TMCC	33	113,392
WNC	12	48,918
<b>Total</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>\$1,229,450</b>



# Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship

The Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship program has been adjusted in recent years through increasingly rigorous initial and continuing eligibility requirements in an effort to maintain the longevity of the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund. These requirements, along with the declining value of the scholarship in the face of registration fee increases, have resulted over time in a reduced percentage of students who activate their scholarships and are able to maintain eligibility. Students may activate their scholarship at any time within the six-year eligibility window; this means, for example, that the number of activated scholarships for the class of 2011 will continue to increase until May 2017.

Table 8

## Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Eligible Students and Activated Awards

	Class of						
	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
High School GPA Requirement	3.0	3.1	3.25	3.25	3.25*	3.25*	3.25*
NV Public High School Graduates	12,953	16,367	17,080	18,715	20,082	20,901	21,366
MS Eligible Graduates	7,359	8,745	8,174	8,790	8,456	9,121	9,300
% Eligible	56.8%	53.4%	47.9%	47.0%	42.1%	43.6%	43.5%
Activated Scholarships	5,657	6,244	5,744	6,094	5,790	5,893	5,469
% Eligible who Activated	76.9%	71.4%	70.3%	69.3%	68.5%	64.6%	58.8%

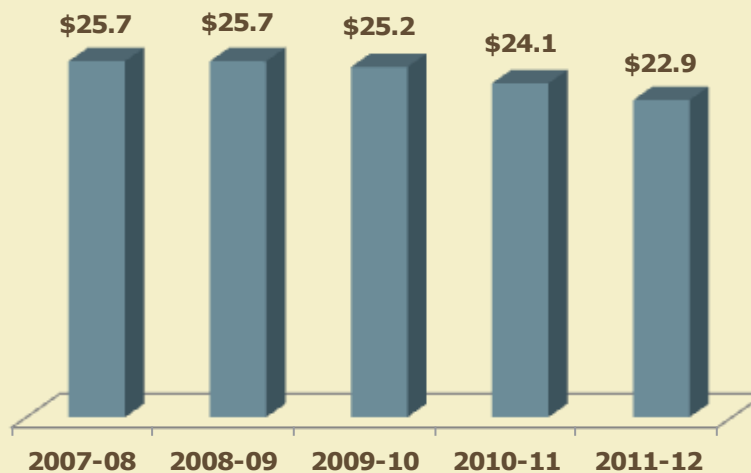
\*GPA Requirements plus completion of the Millennium Core Curriculum

Source: NV State Treasurer's Office; NV Department of Education as of 2/7/2013

After remaining relatively static for four years, total Millennium disbursements dropped 4.7 percent from 2009-10 to 2010-11 and another 4.7 percent between 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Figure 11

## NSHE Total Disbursements Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship 2007-08 to 2011-12 (in millions)

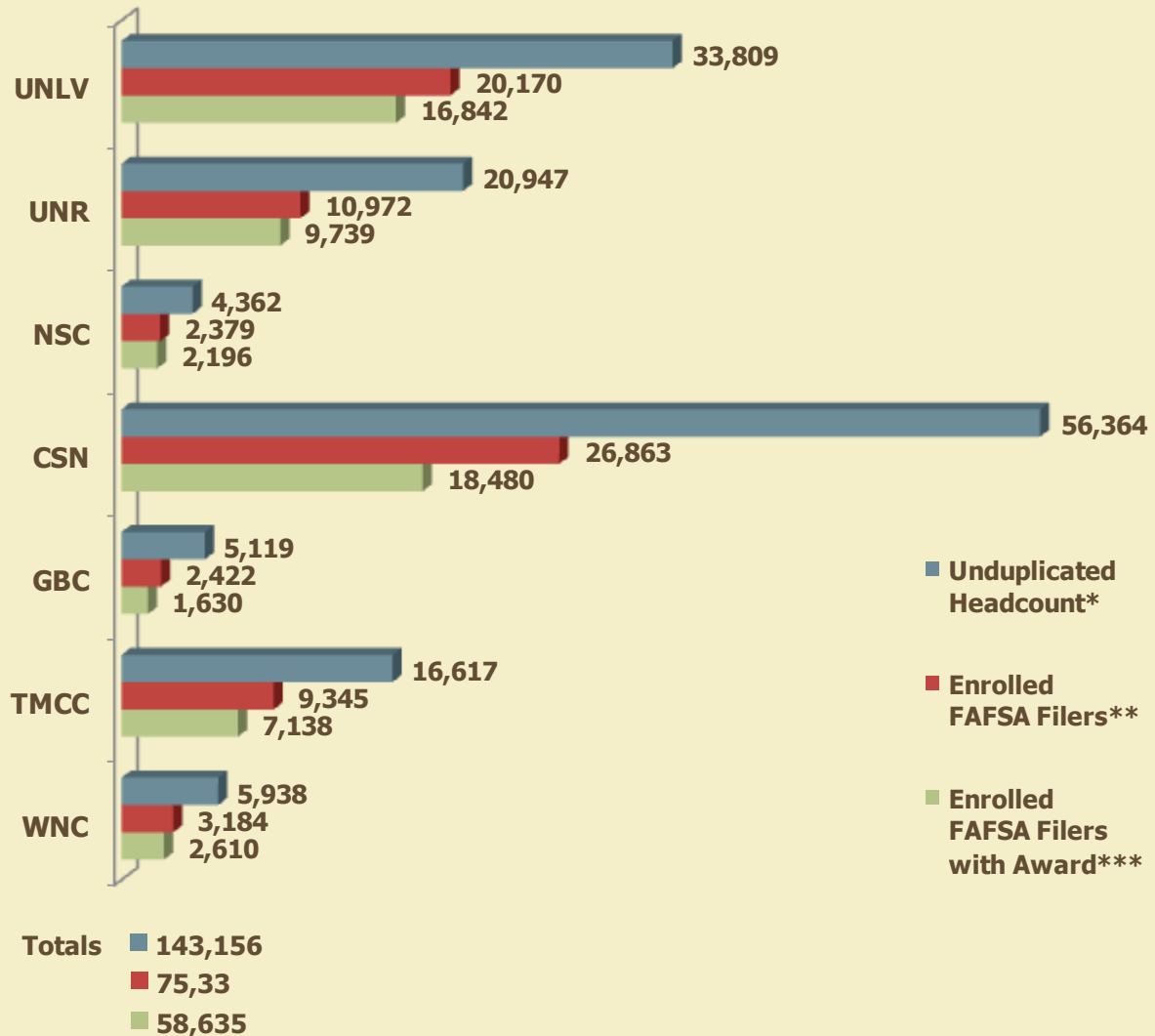


# Financial Aid Applicants and Recipients

In previous years the total reported here for the number of students submitting a FAFSA included both students who enrolled and those who did not enroll during the award year. Students may list up to 10 institutions to receive data when a FAFSA is submitted, resulting in applicant status at multiple institutions. Students are often initially awarded prior to enrollment, but no funds are disbursed if the student never enrolls. Because this report looks at disbursement data, it makes sense to look at these figures in the context of enrolled FAFSA filers rather than simply enrolled students.

Figure 12

## NSHE Enrolled Students, FAFSA Filers and Awards 2011-12



\*Annual unduplicated headcount figures are as reported by each institution to IPEDS and do not correspond to the official headcount figures reported that are for a single semester and are unduplicated across the System.

\*\*FAFSA filers who were enrolled at least one term. A single student may be counted by more than one institution.

\*\*\*FAFSA filers who were enrolled at least one term and received at least one award. Not all financial aid requires the FAFSA.

# Examining Student Need

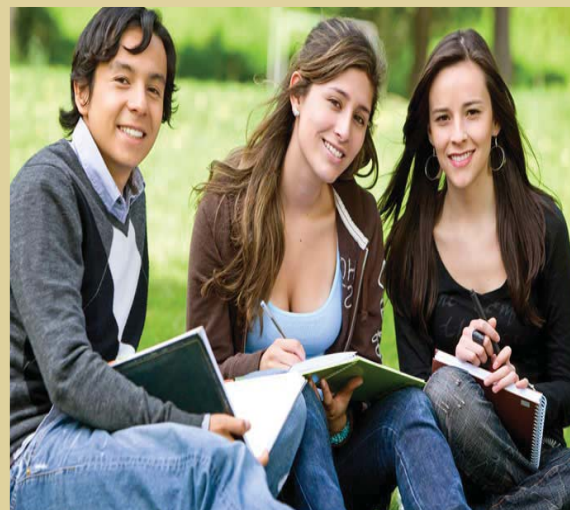
In attempting to get a handle on the financial need of NSHE students, one method is to examine unmet need System-wide. However, before looking at the numbers, it is important to understand how unmet need is determined. Unmet need is calculated on a per-student basis for FAFSA filers by beginning with institutional Cost of Attendance (COA) and subtracting Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and all financial assistance received. COA is institutionally-defined according to specific Federal Student Aid guidelines and generally includes allowances (or actual expenses) for tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses. Institutional unmet need is the total of remaining need for all students who are awarded aid and enroll at least one term (Table 9).

Between 2010-11 and 2011-12, the NSHE unmet need figure increased by over \$100 million, whereas the increase for each of the past several years was closer to \$20 million. This seemingly marked increase may be due more to a new reporting methodology—2011-12 was the first year all institutions implemented PeopleSoft Campus Solutions—than an actual change in the amount. It is expected that this figure will fluctuate less dramatically in future.

Table 9

## NSHE Unmet Need for Enrolled FAFSA Filers 2011-12 (in millions)

	Average Unmet Need	Total Unmet Need
<b>UNLV</b>	\$5,196	93.6
<b>UNR</b>	\$6,173	49.5
<b>NSC</b>	\$4,620	10.9
<b>CSN</b>	\$5,378	131.9
<b>GBC</b>	\$5,715	8.6
<b>TMCC</b>	\$6,058	52.5
<b>WNC</b>	\$7,162	21.6
<b>NSHE</b>		<b>\$368.7</b>



# NSHE Financial Aid Recipient Race/Ethnicity

Table 10 provides the percent distribution of financial aid recipients in the various racial/ethnic categories, by institution. CSN awarded the highest percentage of Black and Hispanic students, while UNLV awarded the highest percentage of Asian students, and GBC the highest percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native students (Table 10).

Table 10

## NSHE Financial Aid Recipients by Race/Ethnicity\* and Institution 2011-12 (Percent Distribution)

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.6%	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%	4.8%	2.0%	4.1%
Asian	13.8%	8.4%	10.4%	7.7%	0.6%	4.4%	1.7%
Black, non-Hispanic	10.8%	4.5%	16.3%	22.7%	4.4%	4.5%	2.6%
Hispanic	20.6%	14.8%	19.1%	23.8%	14.9%	21.9%	16.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2.2%	0.3%	1.5%	2.2%	0.3%	0.6%	0.7%
Two or More Races	6.1%	1.2%	5.7%	4.6%	2.1%	3.4%	2.3%
White, non-Hispanic	45.9%	69.7%	45.9%	38.1%	73.1%	63.1%	72.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

\*Excludes Non-Resident Alien and Unknown/Non-reported

Table 11 provides data on the percent distribution of financial aid disbursements to students in the various racial/ethnic categories, by institution. This distribution is similar to that for percentage of recipients.

Table 11

## NSHE Financial Aid Disbursements by Race/Ethnicity\* and Institution 2011-12 (Percent Distribution)

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.7%	1.1%	1.3%	1.6%	5.7%	2.2%	4.2%
Asian	13.5%	8.7%	10.2%	8.2%	0.7%	4.2%	1.7%
Black, non-Hispanic	4.7%	4.5%	17.0%	18.7%	5.8%	5.2%	2.9%
Hispanic	18.8%	13.4%	16.6%	26.9%	13.5%	18.9%	13.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2.0%	0.2%	1.6%	2.2%	0.2%	0.7%	0.5%
Two or More Races	5.9%	1.2%	5.6%	4.9%	1.9%	3.3%	2.4%
White, non-Hispanic	54.3%	70.9%	47.7%	37.4%	72.1%	65.6%	75.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

\*Excludes Non-Resident Alien and Unknown/Non-reported

# Impact of the Federal Sequester on NSHE Students

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Certain student aid programs across the county and in Nevada will or have been impacted by the “across-the-board” Federal budget cuts, also known as the “sequester.” These cuts took effect on March 1, 2013, when Congress did not enact legislation to reduce the Federal deficit, as required under the Budget Control Act of 2011, to avoid the sequester. A brief summary of the impact of the sequester on federal student aid programs from the U.S. Department of Education follows, but it is important to recognize that adjustments may be made as the Department receives additional direction and information. NSHE institutions are closely following the direction received from the Department and taking steps to implement any changes necessary in response to the impact of the sequester.

## **Federal Pell Grant Program**

The law specifically exempts the Pell Grant Program from the effects of the sequester through Award Year 2013-14, but there is a possibility that the program could be affected beginning in 2014-15. The maximum Pell Grant award for the current 2012–13 award year remains at \$5,550 and the maximum Pell Grant award for the upcoming 2013–14 award year remains at \$5,645.

## **Federal Work-Study and Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant**

The campus-based Federal Work Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) are not impacted by the sequester for Award Year 2012-13, but Award Year 2013-14 funding is anticipated to be reduced by a total of approximately \$86 million. As of the writing of this report, institutions have been notified they will receive more information in late Spring 2013 from the Department of Education regarding their institutional allocations.

## **Direct Loan Program**

While the sequester does not impact the amount, terms, or conditions of Direct Loan Program loans, the loan fee paid by borrowers for Direct Loans where the first disbursement of the loan will be made on or after July 1, 2013, will go up:

- For a Direct Subsidized or Direct Unsubsidized Loan, the loan fee will increase from 1.0 percent of the principal amount of a loan to 1.051 percent. For example, the fee on a loan for \$5,500 will be increased by \$2.80 from \$55.00 to \$57.80.
- For Direct PLUS Loans for both parent and graduate student borrowers, the loan fee will increase from 4.0 percent to 4.204 percent. For example, the fee on a \$10,000 Direct PLUS Loan will be increased by \$20.40 from \$400.00 to \$420.40.

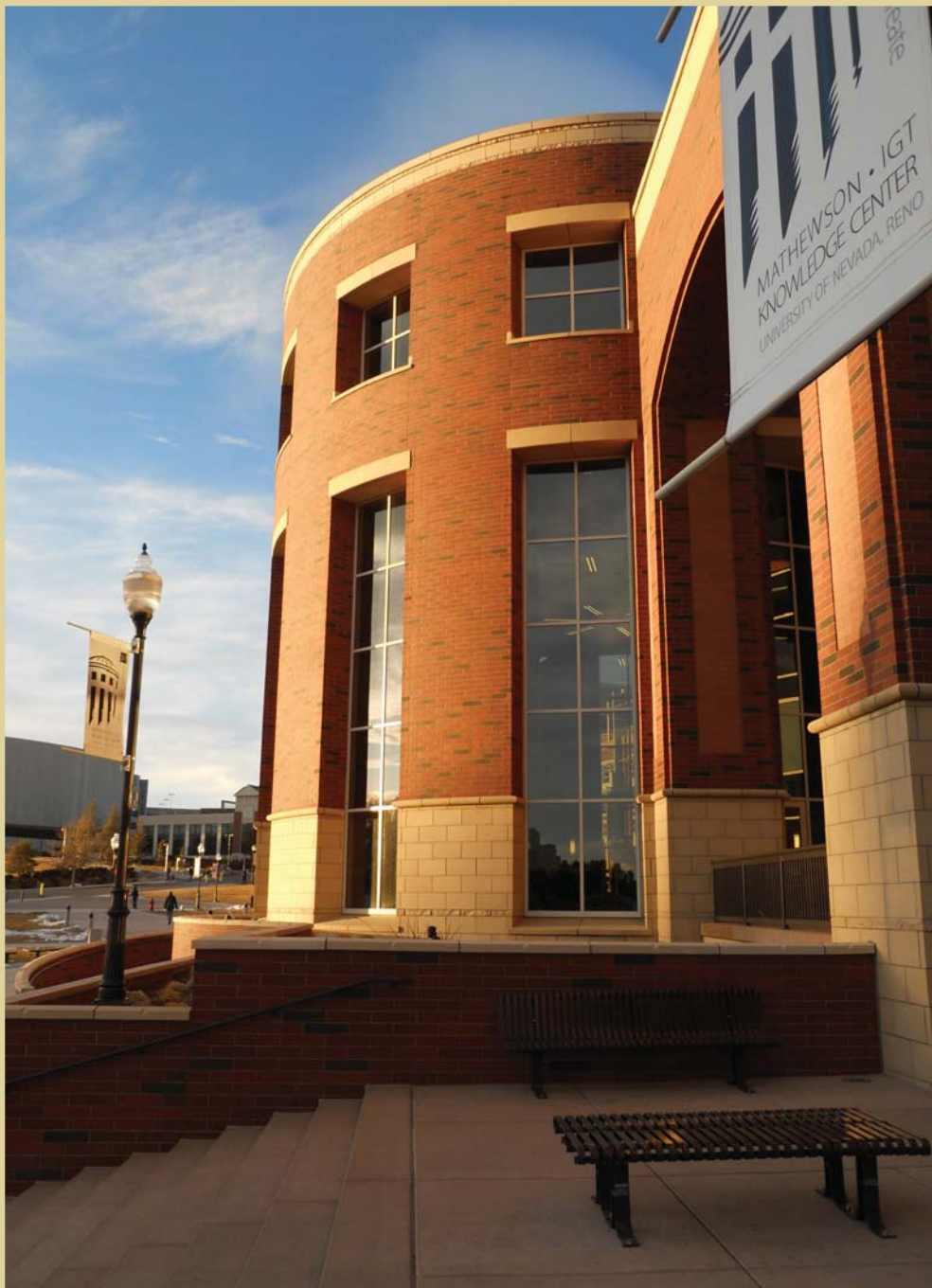
The Department of Education will notify borrowers individually of these fee increases and provide them with additional information, including options for cancelling or reducing the amount of the loan.

## **Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants**

The TEACH Grant program provides grants to students who are completing, or plan to complete, coursework needed to begin a career in teaching and agree to teach, for at least four complete academic years, in a high-need field at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves students from low-income families. Award amounts for any TEACH Grant that is first disbursed after March 1, 2013, must be reduced by 12.6 percent from the award amount for which a recipient would otherwise have been eligible. For example, the maximum award of \$4,000 is reduced by \$504, resulting in a maximum award amount of \$3,496. However, a student who would have received less than the \$4,000 maximum award amount because the student is enrolled only for a portion of the award year or is enrolled less than full-time or both would have the reduction based on that lesser amount.

## Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants

Although the cuts in this program are considerable, it will affect a very small number of NSHE students. The Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant is provided to certain students whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. armed forces and died as a result of military service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11. Award amounts for any Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant that is first disbursed after March 1, 2013, must be reduced by 37.8 percent from the award amount for which a recipient would otherwise have been entitled. For example, for a student whose award would have been at the 2012-13 maximum award of \$5,550, the institution must reduce the award by \$2,097.90, resulting in an award of \$3,452.10. For the 2013-14 award year, for a student whose award would have been at the 2013-14 maximum award of \$5,645, the institution must reduce the award by \$2,133.81, resulting in an award of \$3,511.19. A student who would have received less than the full award, because the student is enrolled only for a portion of the award year or is enrolled less than full-time or both, would have the reduction based on that lesser amount.



# Appendix A

## Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award Methodologies

### **University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

UNLV awarded RHEOA proportionally to graduate and undergraduate students primarily by Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) level. Most of the funds were utilized as grant awards, followed by employment awards, and finally scholarships. RHEOA funds were used to meet scholarship matching requirements for the Latin Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Employment Program, Indian Affairs and GEAR UP. Students received amounts that varied from \$200 to \$5,000 depending upon their level of need, matching requirement, or scholarship pledge.

### **University of Nevada, Reno**

RHEOA funds were split between need-based grants and scholarships in accordance with the program requirements. All need-based funds were awarded based on Cost of Attendance (COA) and EFC. Priority was given to students who had the lowest EFC and who had completed the FAFSA by March 1st. The non-need-based funds were used to fund scholarships and work study.

### **Nevada State College**

RHEOA funds were awarded to students through need- and non-need based grants, on a first-come, first-served basis. Need-based funds are awarded as Nevada State Access Grants to students with a primary EFC of 7500 or less, or as Nevada Grant-In-Aid to Pell-ineligible students with an EFC of 15000 or less. Non-need awards are awarded on a case-by-case basis, to remedy packaging deficiencies or otherwise supplement award offers for students without need.

### **College of Southern Nevada**

RHEOA funds were awarded primarily on a need-basis to students with an EFC of less than 9500, on a first-come, first-served basis. Funds were also used for book vouchers; ensuring needy students have access to course materials. Lastly, funds were used to meet federal matching requirements for TRIO grants, FSEOG and Federal Work Study.

### **Great Basin College**

RHEOA was awarded to students based primarily on EFC. However, students in desperate need of financial assistance who met all other eligibility requirements were awarded on a case-by-case basis, regardless of EFC. GBC did not use RHEOA funds to award special populations.

### **Truckee Meadows Community College**

RHEOA funds are awarded to students with specific EFC ranges that are determined annually in order to assist TMCC's diverse student population. A commitment is made to provide a percentage of these funds to the student employment program, which supports student retention. On a rare and individual case-by-case basis, we may award a student who does not fit our normal guidelines that has unusual or extenuating circumstances. A small portion of funds are set aside to provide grants to low-income first-generation students in our summer bridge program. A second small portion is allocated as a match for qualified GEAR UP students. Lastly, this year the Graduation Incentive Grant (GIG) was created from the fee surcharge set-aside. GIG awards are higher than the standard grant award and awarded to eligible students enrolled full time and on track to graduate during the current academic year. 2011-12 was the first year of this pilot program, and the graduation rate for recipients was 64 percent. While the grant was not the sole reason for graduation, the intent of the program was to target scarce resources towards needy students who are most likely to be successful, thus the intent of the pilot was validated.

### **Western Nevada College**

WNC awarded RHEOA grants and work study by lowest EFC and highest need.