

2016-17 NSHE FINANCIAL AID REPORT



PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
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2016-17 NSHE FINANCIAL AID REPORT

Introduction

The mission of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is to provide higher education services to the citizens of the State. 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. The cost of attending college is out of reach for many students and families in Nevada, 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 goals of the Board of Regents, particularly those related to student access and success and closing the achievement gap.

Executive Summary

During 2016-17 financial aid disbursements to NSHE students systemwide totaled \$588.9 million, remaining relatively static since the prior year (2015-16), when disbursements totaled \$587.7 million. Conversely, looking over a longer period, between 2012-13 and 2016-17 total aid disbursed to NSHE students saw an 8.9 percent increase. Both the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), as well as Nevada State College (NSC) and Great Basin College (GBC), saw an overall increase of disbursed financial aid in 2016-17 over the prior year, while the remaining three institutions saw a decrease. Just as in past years, in 2015-16 loans comprised the largest proportion (46.4 percent) of aid disbursed at NSHE institutions, but the figure did fall by just under \$2 million. Scholarships saw the greatest five-year and one-year increases (42.0 and 6.7 percent, respectively) Two other categories saw an increase over the prior year: student employment (4.5 percent) and grants-in-aid (3.8 percent).

Of growing importance to NSHE students over the last several years, the Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) program continued to comprise a greater percentage of Nevada state financial assistance to students than the merit-based Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) program, 49.0 percent versus 39.5 percent. However, the differential between the two programs decreased for a second consecutive year due to changes made to the GGMS program by the Nevada Legislature in 2015 that allowed students to be funded for a maximum of 15 credits per semester (up from 12) and to qualify for initial eligibility based on a college entrance exam if the GPA requirement is not met. Nevertheless, campuses continue to gradually increase their tuition set-aside for financial aid as required by the Board of Regents policy approved in April 2010 mandating a goal for increased allocations to student financial assistance. This 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 (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 18, Section 8).

As a result of this policy, as well as a commitment by institutions to increase need-based financial assistance to students, the last few award years have seen increases throughout the NSHE, particularly in the fee-generated portion of the RHEOA program. Even with these increases, however, when looking at financial assistance received by NSHE students in 2016-17, the percentage of grant aid from federal sources remained high, at 74 percent, as compared to the national average, which dropped to 32 percent in 2017 (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2017*). This balance may now begin to shift as Governor Brian Sandoval and the 2017 Legislature made the Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) Program permanent and increased funding from \$5 million for the 2015-17 Biennium to \$10 million for the 2017-19 Biennium. However, while the state's contribution to need-based aid grew substantially with the establishment of the SSOG program, the state's average contribution relative to federal aid remained small; disbursements to students at all seven NSHE institutions in federal grants totaled \$118.6 million in 2016-17 (with the Pell Grant program accounting for \$114.8 or 96.8 percent of that total).

As mentioned previously, loans again made up the largest portion (46.4 percent) of financial aid disbursed to NSHE students in 2016-17. This has been a long-term trend, both in Nevada and across the nation. This is because loans continue to be one of the primary options for students to fill gaps in covering the full cost of attendance, and, for some students, loans are the only way to finance higher education. Of course, the drawback to student loans is the debt burden after graduation. Loans are particularly burdensome for those students who do not graduate and therefore carry additional debt without a higher income. On the other hand, there is some good news in terms of borrowing by NSHE students: in 2016-17 total loan disbursements dropped for the second consecutive year. Although the decrease was small (just under \$2 million, 0.7 percent), combined with the larger reduction of 7.4 percent between 2014-15 and 2016-17, it may signal the beginning of a positive trend.

The number of NSHE students filing a FAFSA continued to fluctuate, decreasing by 3,517 students (4.7 percent) after an increase between 2014-15 and 2015-16 and a substantial dip between 2013-14 and 2014-15. At the same time, the percentage of all NSHE students Systemwide who filed a FAFSA and were funded with at least one form of financial aid remained fairly steady in the lower 40 percent range. It can be difficult to pinpoint the exact reason for the fluctuating number of FAFSA filers due to the process of applying for financial aid. Simply filling out the FAFSA is not the only step to receiving financial aid. For many students, institutions are unable to certify eligibility because they have failed to turn in required documents, while others who complete the process are only eligible for student loans and choose not to take them.

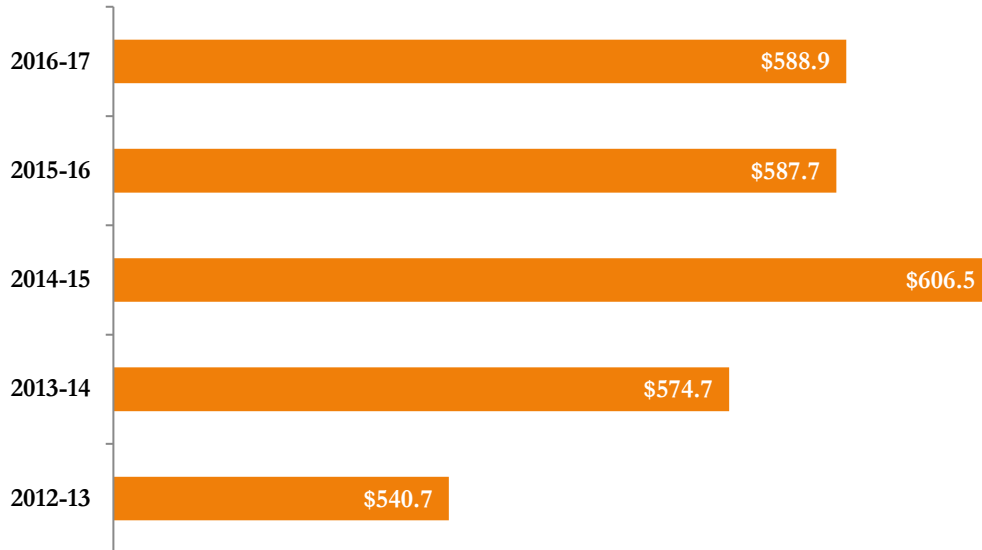
Methodology

The *2016-17 NSHE Financial Aid Report* includes information on the amount of financial assistance provided to students attending institutions within NSHE. The data in this report are provided by the financial aid directors at each NSHE institution. Each fall, institutions submit data for each financial aid program administered in the prior year. 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.

NSHE Total Financial Aid

The total amount of financial aid disbursed to NSHE students remained static compared to the prior year, at \$588.9 million in 2016-17 and \$587.7 million in 2015-16 (0.2 percent increase; Figure 1). However, looking back over the most recent five-year period, total financial aid disbursements increased by 8.9 percent.

Figure 1 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed
(in millions)



The universities, NSC and GBC experienced an overall increase in total aid disbursed between 2015-16 and 2016-17. GBC, at 4.0 percent, experienced the greatest one-year increase, and UNR the greatest five-year increase, at 24.0 percent (Table 1). The decreases at the three other community colleges can be explained by a reduction in Pell Grant disbursements, federal loan disbursements, enrollment or all three. In an effort to combat loan default, campuses have continued proactive procedures to encourage educated, conservative borrowing by students.

Table 1 – NSHE Total Aid Disbursed by Institution
(in millions)

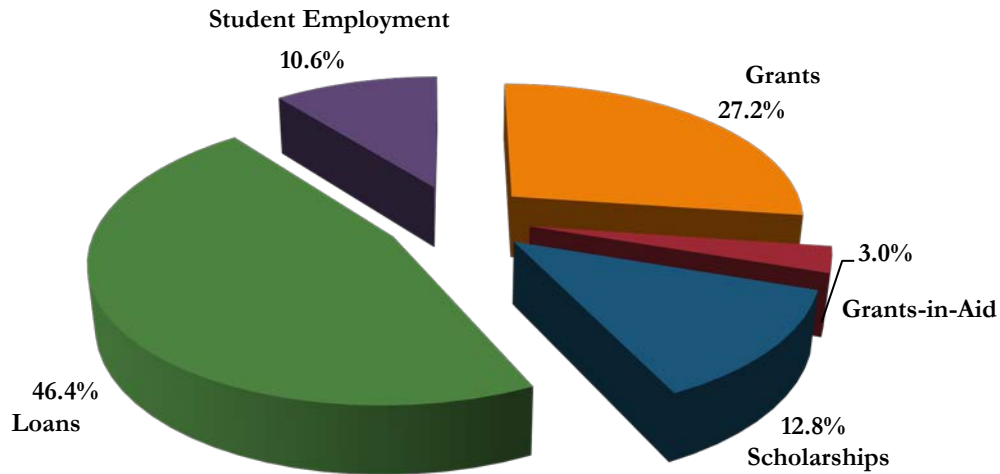
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
UNLV	\$237.3	\$240.4	\$248.6	\$256.1	\$263.4	2.8%	11.0%
UNR	\$156.7	\$166.1	\$178.1	\$188.0	\$194.3	3.4%	24.0%
NSC	\$19.6	\$20.2	\$20.6	\$20.5	\$20.9	2.2%	6.7%
CSN	\$74.9	\$98.9	\$113.7	\$81.8	\$74.1	-9.5%	-1.1%
GBC	\$6.8	\$6.4	\$6.0	\$6.4	\$6.6	4.0%	-1.7%
TMCC	\$30.0	\$27.8	\$26.1	\$23.8	\$21.1	-11.6%	-29.8%
WNC	\$15.5	\$14.9	\$13.4	\$11.1	\$8.5	-23.4%	-45.1%
Total	\$540.7	\$574.7	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	0.2%	8.9%

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 2016-17 the distribution of total aid by category (Figure 2) presented a picture similar to prior years. In comparison, for 2015-16 loans comprised 46.9 percent of total; student employment 10.2 percent; grants 28.1 percent; grants-in-aid 2.9 percent; and scholarships 12.0 percent.

Figure 2 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Category
2016-17 (percent distribution)



In 2016-17 the greatest increase over the prior year was in the scholarship category, at 6.7 percent (Table 2). Notably, the scholarship category has seen an increase every year for more than the last five award years; this signals the continued recovery of scholarship programs after a substantial decrease between 2010-11 and 2011-12. Both grants-in-aid and student employment also showed an increase over 2015-16 levels, at 3.8 percent and 4.5 percent respectively. All categories showed an increase over 2012-13, again with scholarships showing the greatest increase at 42 percent.

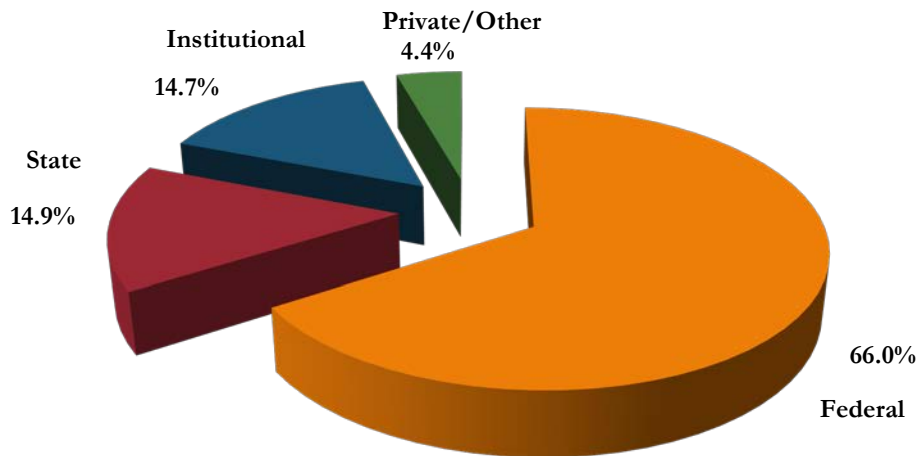
Table 2 – NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Category
(in millions)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Grants	\$156.1	\$161.1	\$172.7	\$165.2	\$160.3	-2.9%	2.7%
Grants-in-Aid	\$15.4	\$17.9	\$18.9	\$16.8	\$17.5	3.8%	13.7%
Scholarships	\$52.9	\$54.3	\$61.3	\$70.4	\$75.1	6.7%	42.0%
Loans	\$262.9	\$285.5	\$297.5	\$275.4	\$273.4	-0.7%	4.0%
Student Employment	\$53.4	\$55.9	\$56.2	\$59.9	\$62.6	4.5%	17.1%
Total	\$540.7	\$574.7	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	0.2%	8.9%

NSHE Financial Aid by Source

The distribution of total aid by source in 2016-17 (Figure 3) was also similar to the prior year. After a decline in the percentage of aid from federal sources between 2014-15 and 2015-16 by nearly three percentage points, that trend continued between 2015-16 and 2016-17, with an additional reduction of nearly 2 percentage points. This decrease was offset mainly by an increased share of aid coming from institutional sources, although both state and private showed small increases as well. In 2015-16, federal sources accounted for the majority of all aid disbursed to NSHE students, at 67.8 percent; state sources accounted for 14.6 percent; institutional, 13.5 percent; and private/other, 4.1 percent.

Figure 3 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Source
2016-17 Percent Distribution



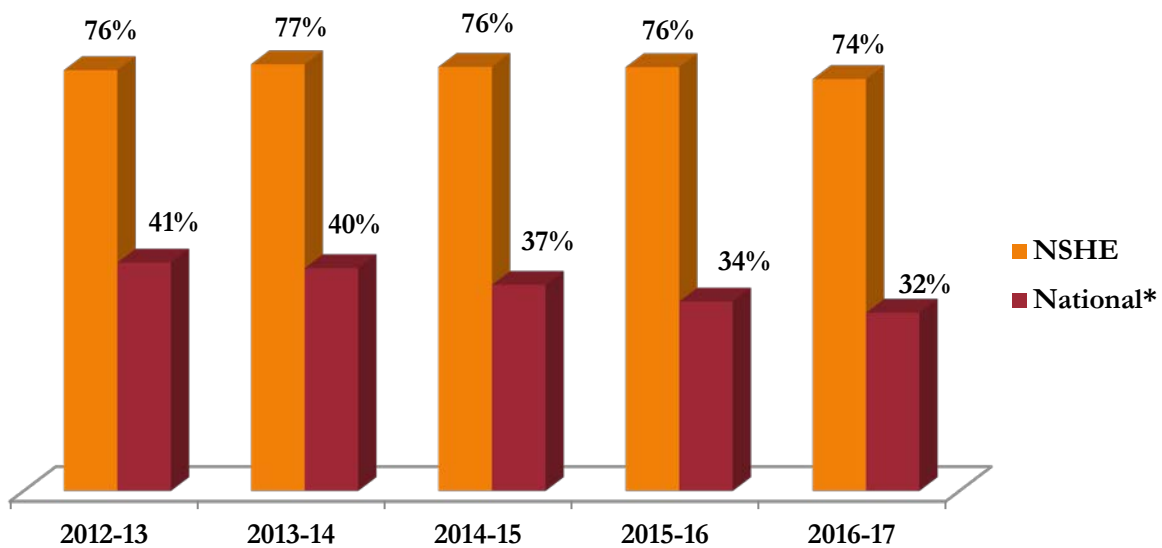
When considering NSHE total aid disbursed in 2016-17 by source, the greatest five-year percentage increase came from state sources, and the greatest one-year percentage increases came from institutional sources (Table 3). In comparison, in 2015-16 the greatest five-year percentage increase also came from institutional sources (34.4 percent), while the greatest one-year increase came from state sources (12.5 percent). The ongoing increase in institutional aid is primarily comprised of scholarship disbursements, while the increase in state sources in 2016-17 can be primarily attributed to continued growth in Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship disbursements due to program changes enacted by the 2015 Nevada Legislature.

Table 3 – NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Source
(in millions)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Federal	379.6	405.6	428.4	398.5	388.7	-2.5%	2.4%
State	69.0	74.6	76.2	85.7	87.7	2.3%	27.0%
Institutional	69.6	72.8	78.2	79.4	86.7	8.5%	24.5%
Private/Other	22.5	21.7	23.8	24.1	25.8	6.3%	14.6%
Total	\$540.7	\$574.7	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	0.2%	8.9%

Despite the efforts by NSHE to direct a greater portion of student fee revenue to student financial assistance over the last several years and also despite the decrease in the overall percentage of federal aid as a portion of all aid awarded to NSHE students, in 2016-17 nearly three quarters of grant aid continued to come from federal sources (Figure 4). In the past, the reliance of NSHE students on federal grant aid has largely been attributed to the absence of a state-funded need-based financial aid program. This balance may now begin to shift as Governor Brian Sandoval and the 2017 Legislature made the Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) Program permanent and increased funding from \$5 million for the 2015-17 Biennium to \$10 million for the 2017-19 Biennium. However, due to the size of the federal grant programs—disbursements to students at all seven NSHE institutions in federal grants (chiefly Pell) totaled \$118.6 million in 2016-17—such a shift is expected to be incremental, rather than dramatic.

Figure 4 **Percent Grant Aid from Federal Sources**

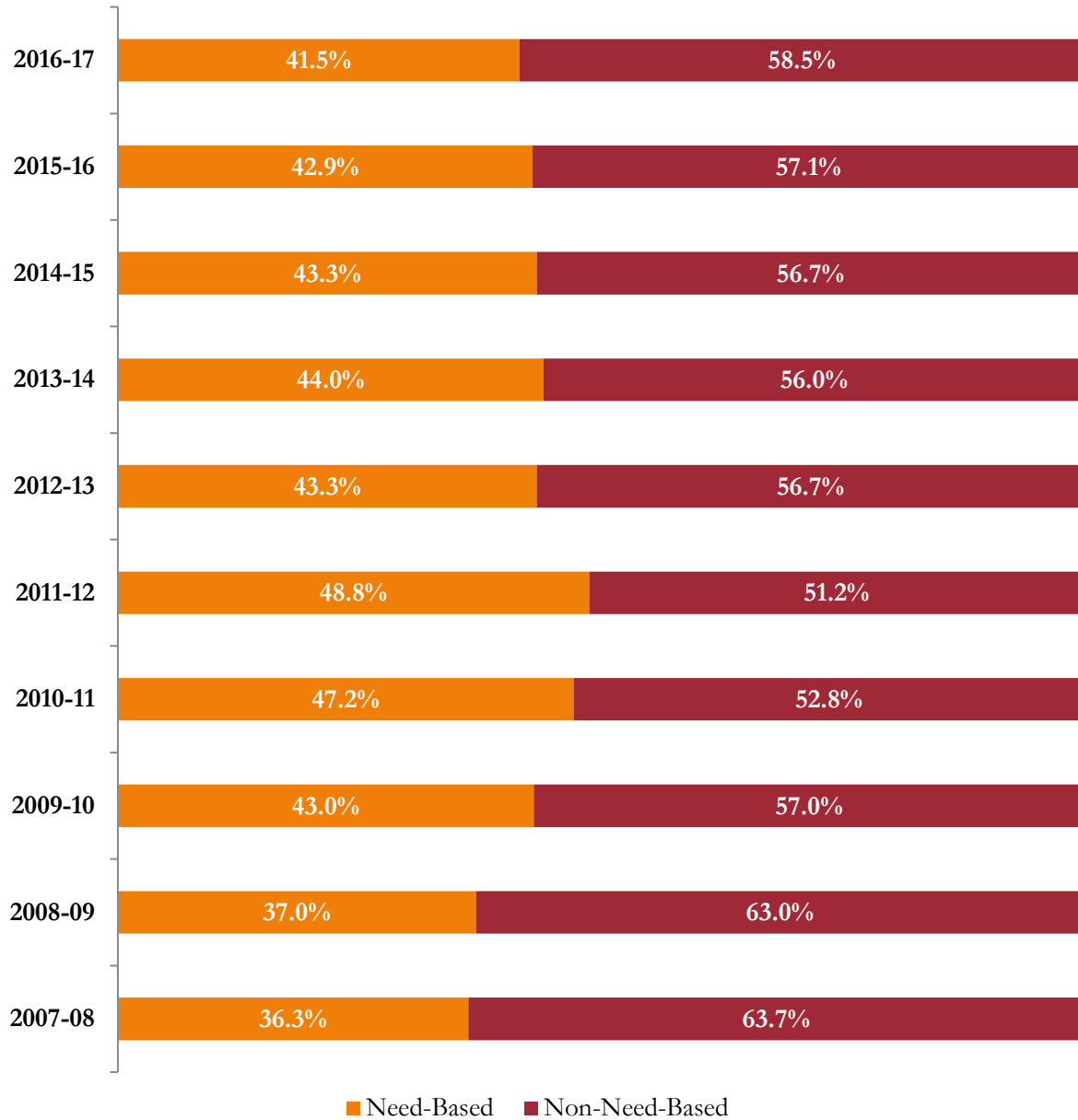


* College Board , *Trends in Student Aid, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.*

NSHE Financial Aid by Type

For the last four award years, the proportion of need-based aid versus non-need-based aid awarded to NSHE students has seen a minor shift from need-based to non-need based (Figure 5). Without a large influx of need-based dollars, it is unlikely the balance will shift dramatically in the future, even with the advent of the Silver State Opportunity Grant Program. This, as noted above, is due to the size of the total existing programs. In 2016-17 total need-based disbursements to NSHE students totaled \$244.6 million and total non-need-based disbursements totaled \$344.2 million (for detailed data, see Appendix A).

Figure 5 NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Type
(percent distribution)



NSHE Pell Grants

By far the largest federal Title IV student grant program, Pell Grant disbursements in 2016-17 accounted for \$26.6 billion in aid to students nationwide (down from a high of \$35.8 billion in 2011-12 (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2017*).

NSHE students saw a similar decrease in Pell Grant disbursements between 2011-12 and 2012-13, but an increase in 2013-14 to \$121 million (4.4 percent) and another increase in 2014-15 to \$128.8 million (6.5 percent). However, total NSHE Pell Grant disbursements dropped between 2014-15 and 2015-16 by \$6.3 million to \$122.5 million, a decrease of nearly five percent, and again between 2015-16 and 2016-17 by \$7.7 million (6.3 percent; Figure 6). For the same period, the number of NSHE recipients dropped by 6.8 percent (Figure 7).

Figure 6 NSHE Total Pell Grant Disbursements
(in millions)

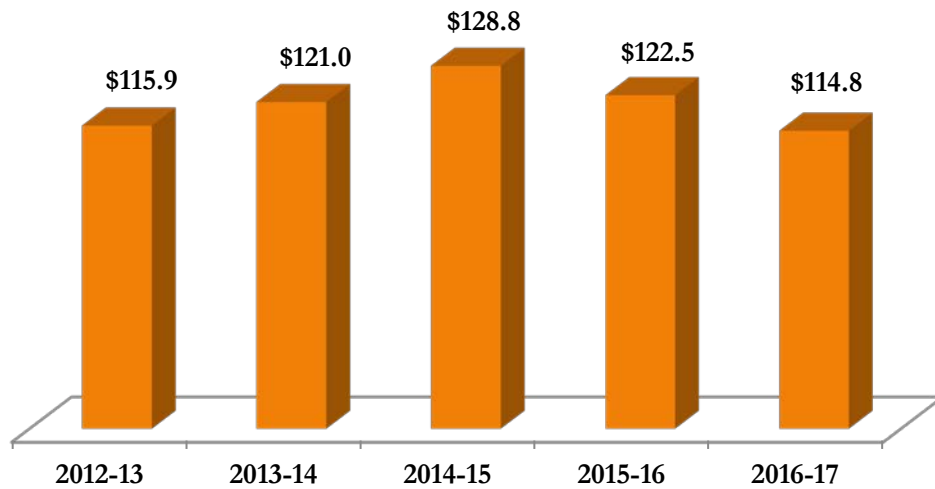
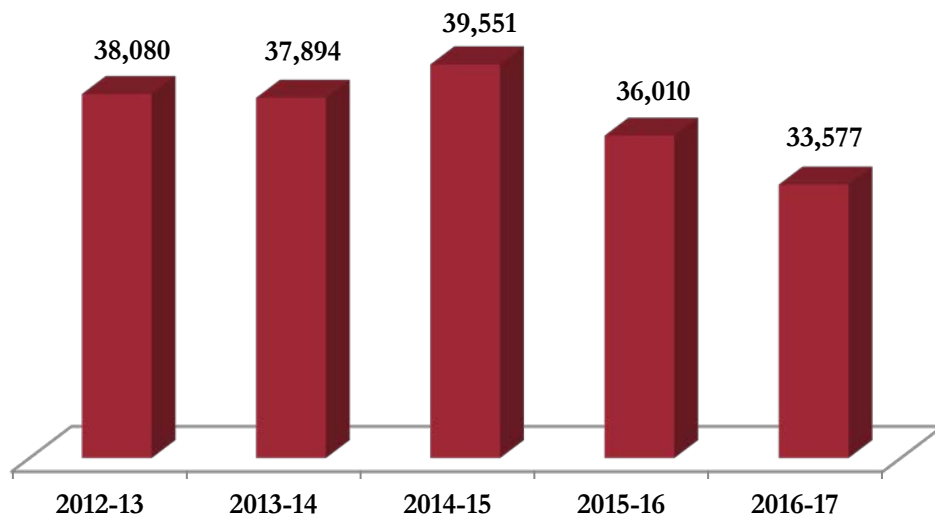


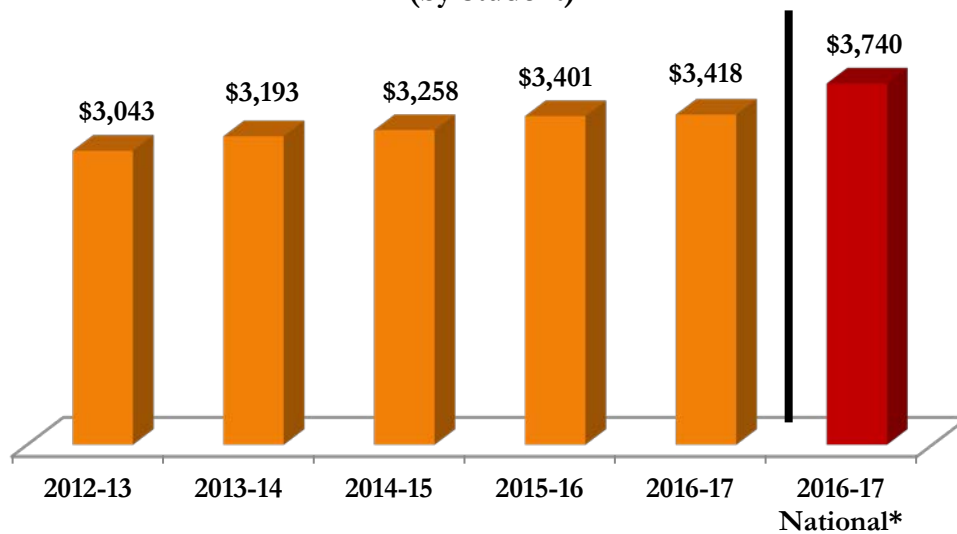
Figure 7 NSHE Total Pell Grant Recipients



As detailed by the College Board in its 2017 publication of *Trends in Student Aid*, the maximum award amount in the Pell Grant program has varied over time, especially when adjusted for inflation: “the \$5,820 maximum Pell Grant in 2016-17 was 54 percent higher in inflation-adjusted dollars than it was 20 years earlier, but about the same as it was 40 years earlier, in 1976-77.”

Notably, while the Pell Grant is often discussed in terms of the maximum award, the average student award is lower both among NSHE students and nationally (Figure 8). In 2016-17, the maximum annual Pell Grant award increased to \$5,820 from \$5,775 the prior year. In order to be eligible for the maximum award, students must attend full-time (at least 12 credits per semester) and must have a zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC), as calculated by the Federal government and based on student FAFSA data. Having a zero EFC essentially means that the family has no financial resources it can contribute toward the student’s Cost of Attendance (COA). 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. Students who have an EFC greater than 0 may still qualify for Pell, but receive less than the maximum award, even if they attend full-time. It is also important to recognize that during 2016-17 even students with a zero EFC had no Pell dollars available to them in the summer if they received a full-time award in both fall and spring. With the reinstatement of summer Pell by Congress effective for the 2017-18 Award Year, this will change as students will essentially be eligible for up to 150% (or three terms) of their calculated Pell Grant award per year. For example, a student with a calculated award of \$5,000 enrolled full-time in fall and spring would receive \$2,500 for each semester and still be eligible for up to an additional \$2,500 for summer, if enrolled full-time, or \$1,250 if enrolled half-time (six credits).

Figure 8 NSHE Average Annual Pell Grant Disbursements (by Student)

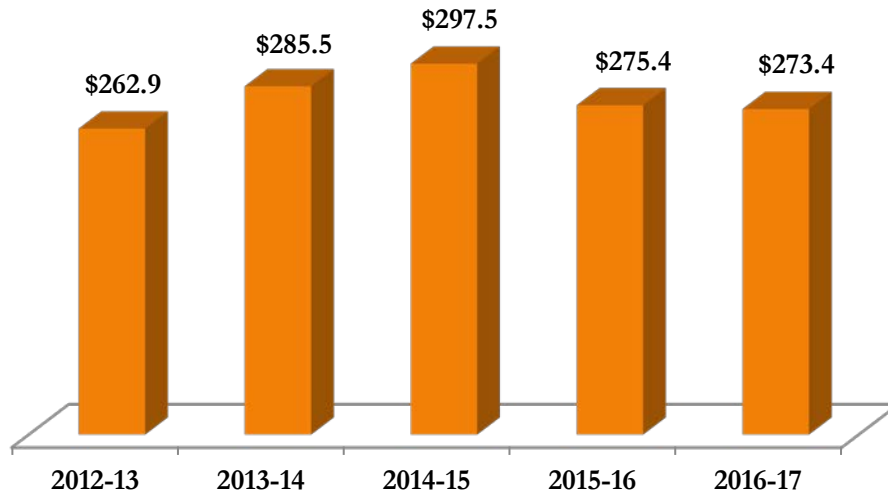


*College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2017*. Maximum award for 2016-17 was \$5,820.

NSHE Student Loans

For NSHE students, total loan disbursements from all sources decreased slightly in 2016-17 over the prior year, from \$275.4 million to \$273.4 million, after a steeper decrease of 7.4 percent between 2014-15 and 2015-16 (Figure 9). A major contributor to the decrease between 2014-15 and 2015-16 was CSN, with a drop of 49.1 percent in student loan disbursements, primarily due to the institution's decision to no longer prepackage unsubsidized student loans during the initial awarding process. CSN also saw a double digit decrease between 2015-16 and 2016-17, as did two other institutions: TMCC and WNC (Appendix B). Nationally, total disbursements of federal and non-federal loans continued to decrease for the sixth consecutive year, to \$106.5 billion in 2016-17 (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2017*).

Figure 9 NSHE Total Loan Disbursements--All Sources
(in millions)



In 2016-17 four NSHE institutions made available to students long- and/or short-term loans that were institutionally-funded. In accordance with Board of Regents' policy (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 10, Section 24), institutions must report annually on such loans. Table 4, below, meets this reporting mandate and provides information regarding NSHE loan disbursements in 2016-17.

**Table 4 – NSHE Total Long and Short Term Institutional Loans
2016-17**

	Total Outstanding June 30, 2016	Total Outstanding June 30, 2017	Total Awarded	Total Repayments	Total Written Off*	% Written Off
UNLV	\$3,479,638	\$3,261,362	\$396,439	\$490,679	\$124,036	31.3%
UNR	\$8,657,787	\$8,586,179	\$1,295,491	\$1,301,823	\$65,276	5.0%
GBC	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.0%
TMCC	\$9,926	\$10,488	\$7,150	\$6,588	\$0	0.0%
Total	\$12,147,351	\$11,858,029	\$1,699,580	\$1,799,591	\$189,312	11.1%

*Write-off category includes Perkins Loans forgiven under federal regulations. Percentage written off calculated per Board of Regents policy as total written off divided by total awarded for combined loan programs for the year.

Nevada Student Financial Assistance Programs

In 2016-17 there were five System-wide programs that provided financial assistance to NSHE students (Table 5): Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS); Nevada Grants-in-Aid (GIA); Regents Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA); Regents Service Program (RSP); and, established in 2015 by the Nevada Legislature, Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG). RHEOA, commonly referred to as Student Access Aid, has been the largest of the Nevada programs since 2010-11.

**Table 5 – Nevada Program Disbursements
2016-17 (dollars in millions)**

	Students	% Total	Dollars	% Total
Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS)	20,948	39.5%	\$32.0	33.3%
Nevada Grants-in-Aid (GIA)	4,727	8.9%	\$17.5	18.1%
Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA)	26,006	49.0%	\$43.5	45.2%
Regents' Service Program (RSP)	250	0.5%	\$0.8	0.9%
Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG)	1,113	2.1%	\$2.5	2.6%
Total	53,044	100.0%	\$96.3	100%

Note: of total RHEOA awards, 80.4% of dollars were fee-generated, as compared to 73.4% in 2015-16. Awarded as grants, scholarships and/or work study; headcount is duplicated for students who received awards in multiple categories.

During the recently concluded 2017 Session, the Nevada Legislature approved Senate Bill 391 (Chapter 461, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*), which established the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program and budgeted \$3.5 million dollars to be awarded to recent high school graduates who enroll at a community college during 2018-19 and do not have other aid to cover the cost of registration fees. Disbursements from the Nevada Promise Scholarship program will begin to appear in this annual report in 2020 when the 2018-19 report is published.

Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship

Since its inception in 2000, the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS) program has been adjusted 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. However, it is important to note that 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 2017 will continue to increase until May 31, 2023.

**Table 6 – Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program Data
Selected Years, 2000-2017**

	2000	Class of			
		2011	2013	2015	2017
High School GPA Requirement	3.00	3.25*	3.25*	3.25*	3.25*
NV Public High School Graduates	12,953	21,366	23,013	23,837	28,565
MS Eligible Graduates	7,359	9,308	10,544	11,312	13,743
% Eligible	56.8%	43.6%	45.8%	47.5%	48.1%
Activated Scholarships**	5,657	5,989	6,726	7,156	7,884
% Eligible who Activated	76.9%	64.3%	63.8%	63.3%	57.4%

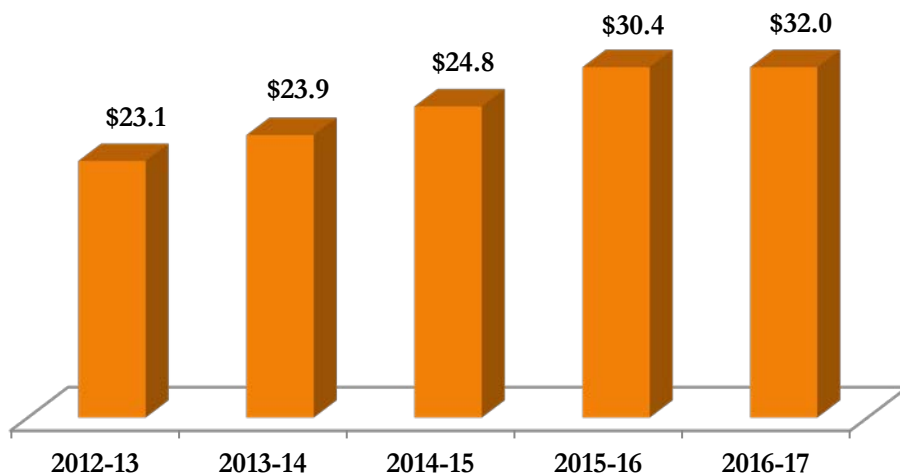
*GPA requirement plus completion of GGMS Core Curriculum.

**Students may activate their scholarship at any time within the six-year eligibility window.

Source: Nevada State Treasurer's Office as of 7/23/18; Nevada Department of Education (Nevada public high school graduates include standard and advanced diplomas).

In 2016-17 GGMS disbursements to NSHE students reached an all-time program high of \$32.0 million, an increase of \$1.6 million over the prior year, which came after an increase of \$5.6 million between 2014-15 and 2015-16. These increases are directly attributable to changes made to the GGMS program during 2015 Session by the Nevada Legislature, which included an increase in the maximum number of fundable credits as well as a provision to allow students who don't meet the high school GPA requirement to qualify instead through a college entrance exam score.

**Figure 10 Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship
Total NSHE Disbursements (in millions)**

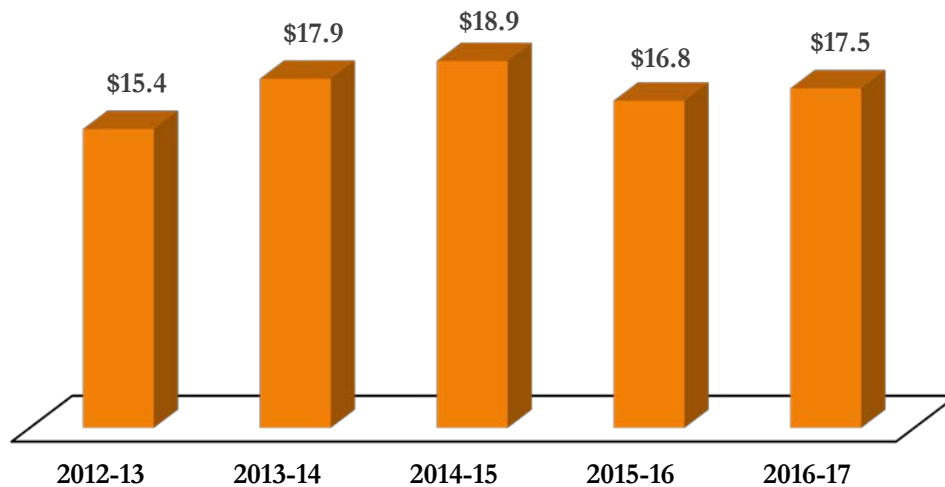


Nevada Grants-in-Aid

Nevada Grants-in-Aid is not a formal financial aid program, but, rather a combination of different awards made at the NSHE campuses that fall into this general category. Grants-in-aid are often equated with waivers of registration fees or non-resident tuition, but the figures reported here include only those awards that have actual dollars attached to the transaction. Board policy governing grants-in-aid is contained in the *Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 1 and 2. The different types of grants-in-aid include, but are not limited to: athletics, graduate assistants, members of Native American tribes, dependents of active duty service members killed in the line of duty, and non-resident students. Notably, faculty/staff grants-in-aid (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 3, Sections 11 through 13) are not included here because they are a benefit of employment with NSHE rather than financial aid in the traditional sense.

In 2016-17 disbursements in the grants-in-aid category totaled \$17.5 million (\$11.2 million from state sources, \$3.8 million from federal, \$1.2 million institutional, with the small amount remaining from private). Due to the varied nature of these awards, the total disbursements tend to fluctuate considerably from year to year.

Figure 11 Nevada Grants-in-Aid
Total NSHE Disbursements (in millions)



NSHE Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award

As in prior years, the majority of Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) disbursements made to students in 2016-17 were in the form of grants, although some campuses awarded RHEOA-funded scholarships and work study (Table 7). According to Board policy, at least 80 percent of RHEOA disbursements to undergraduates must be need-based. For graduate students the requirements vary: at least 80 percent of state-funded RHEOA disbursements must be need-based, while at least 50 percent of fee-generated RHEOA disbursements must be need-based.

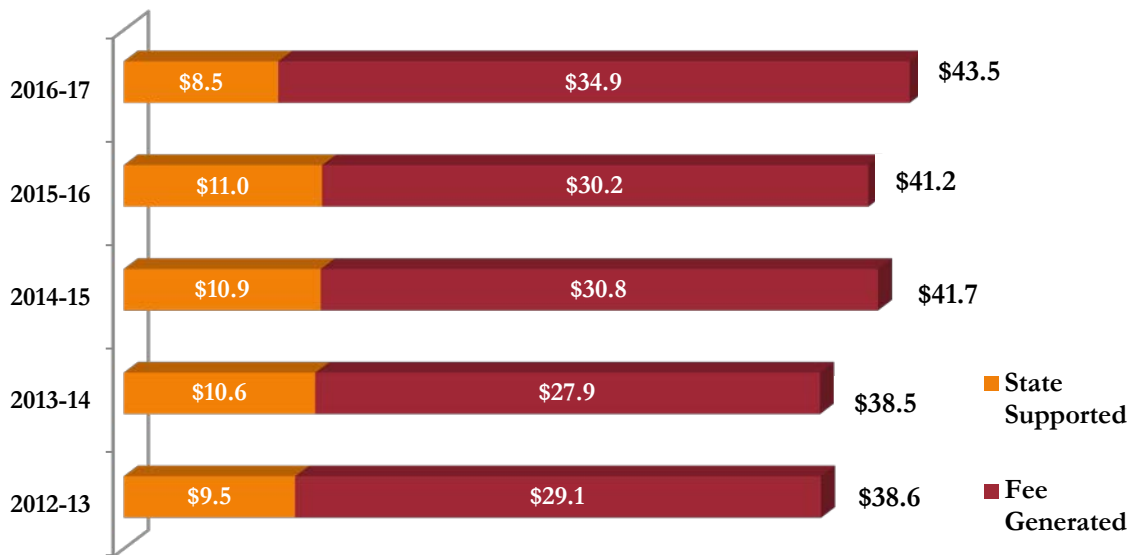
Table 7 – NSHE Total Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award Disbursements 2016-17

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC	NSHE
Grants	\$15,020,831	\$12,983,504	\$1,483,617	\$4,047,410	\$491,623	\$1,808,476	\$557,865	\$36,393,327
Scholarships	\$4,336,064	\$715,085	\$625,132	\$195,120	\$69,400	\$0	\$0	\$5,940,801
Work Study	\$140,073	\$328,641	\$0	\$0	\$14,757	\$502,315	\$155,068	\$1,140,853
Total	\$19,496,968	\$14,027,230	\$2,108,749	\$4,242,531	\$575,780	\$2,310,792	\$712,932	\$43,474,982

Note: of total RHEOA awards, 80.4% of dollars were fee-generated, as compared to 73.4% in 2015-16. RHEOA awarded as grants, scholarships and/or work study; headcount is duplicated for students who received awards in multiple categories.

RHEOA disbursements increase by 5.6 percent over the prior year, from \$41.2 million in 2015-16 to \$43.5 million in 2016-17 (Figure 11). RHEOA dollars come from two sources: the state supported budget and a percentage of registration fees, with the majority coming from registration fees. In 2016-17, the proportion of fee-generated aid to state-supported aid in the RHEOA program calculated to 80.4 percent coming from registration fees and 26.6 percent coming from the state-supported budget, while in 2015-16 the breakdown was 73.4 percent from registration fees and 26.6 percent state-supported.

Figure 12 NSHE Total Regents Higher Education Opportunity Award Disbursements (in millions)



NSHE Regents' Service Program

According to Board policy, institutions must report on the Regents' Service Program (RSP) annually. The 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 in 2016-17.

**Table 8 – NSHE Total Regents' Service Program Disbursements
2016-17**

	Students	Dollars
UNLV	76	\$297,836
UNR	52	\$207,064
NSC	0	\$0
CSN	85	\$192,488
GBC	12	\$29,605
TMCC	13	\$43,681
WNC	12	\$60,426
Total	250	\$831,099

Silver State Opportunity Grant Program

The Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) is a state-supported financial aid program created by the 2015 Legislature pursuant to Senate Bill 227 (Chapter 387, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*). Under the SSOG Program, need-based grants are awarded to eligible low-income students who are college-ready to pay for a portion of the cost of education at a community college or state college within the NSHE. This unique program is built on a shared responsibility model and guided by a philosophy for awarding grant aid based on the total cost of attendance (tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, and other living expenses) being shared by partners (the state, the federal government, the family, and the student). Simply stated, the program is designed to ensure low income students have both the incentive and the financial resources to enroll in 15 credits per semester and graduate on time as do their more affluent peers.

SSOG Awards were initially made during Academic Year 2015-16. The 2015 Legislature appropriated the sum of \$2.5 million for Fiscal Year 2015-16 and \$2.5 million for Fiscal Year 2016-17 to support the program under Senate Bill 514 (Chapter 534, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*). Just as in Year One, available funding was insufficient to award all eligible students in Year Two (Table 9). However, during the 2017 Legislative Session the SSOG program became part of the approved Executive Budget, with an appropriation doubling that of the prior biennium: \$5 million for Fiscal Year 2017-18 and \$5 million for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

**Table 9 – Silver State Opportunity Grant
Disbursements and Eligible Students
2016-17 (Year Two)**

	Total Dollars Awarded	Eligible Students Awarded	% of Eligible Students Awarded
NSC	\$194,367.00	85	22.2%
CSN	\$1,395,868.00	662	62.6%
GBC	\$156,592.00	53	36.2%
TMCC	\$550,653.00	208	52.6%
WNC	\$202,520.00	105	42.2%
Total	\$2,500,000.00	1,113	50.5%

Since SSOG is the State of Nevada’s first state-supported need-based financial aid program and recipients are required to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), it is the first program where income information is available for all recipients. Data collected from the campuses for reporting to the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) demonstrate that, as intended, the program is indeed reaching some of the neediest students attending NSHE institutions (Table 10).

**Table 10 – Silver State Opportunity Grant Recipients by Income Level
2016-17 (Year Two)**

Dependent Students			Independent Students		
Income Range	Students	Dollars	Income Range	Students	Dollars
\$19,999 or less	151	\$262,561	\$2,999 or less	77	\$234,524
\$20,000 - \$39,999	237	\$395,181	\$3,000 - \$5,999	43	\$132,479
\$40,000 - \$49,999	117	\$172,612	\$6,000 - \$9,999	49	\$141,890
\$50,000 - \$59,999	60	\$103,132	\$10,000 - \$14,999	69	\$196,991
\$60,000 - \$79,999	61	\$98,810	\$15,000 - \$19,999	46	\$125,775
\$80,000 - \$99,999	13	\$18,092	\$20,000 - \$29,999	83	\$255,347
\$100,000 or more	1	\$1,416	\$30,000 - \$39,999	43	\$142,917
Total	640	\$1,051,802	\$40,000 - \$49,999	33	\$112,750
	Median Income: \$33,787		\$50,000 or more	31	\$105,525
			Total	473	\$1,448,198
				Median Income: \$14,496	

Likewise, the SSOG program has been successful in reaching NSHE’s diverse population of students at each of the participating campuses, with the percentage of minority recipients either mirroring or exceeding the overall campus population.

**Table 11 – Silver State Opportunity Grant
Recipients by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution
2016-17 (Year Two)**

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White, Non-Hispanic	% Minority SSOG	% Minority Institution**
NSC	2.6%	14.3%	7.8%	32.5%	0.0%	9.1%	33.8%	66.2%	55.6%
CSN	0.2%	10.7%	12.0%	33.2%	1.6%	6.9%	35.4%	64.6%	62.2%
GBC	5.9%	0.0%	2.0%	29.4%	0.0%	3.9%	58.8%	41.2%	30.3%
TMCC	0.5%	7.3%	3.4%	38.3%	0.5%	3.9%	46.1%	53.9%	39.4%
WNC	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	43.7%	1.0%	3.9%	48.5%	51.5%	30.0%

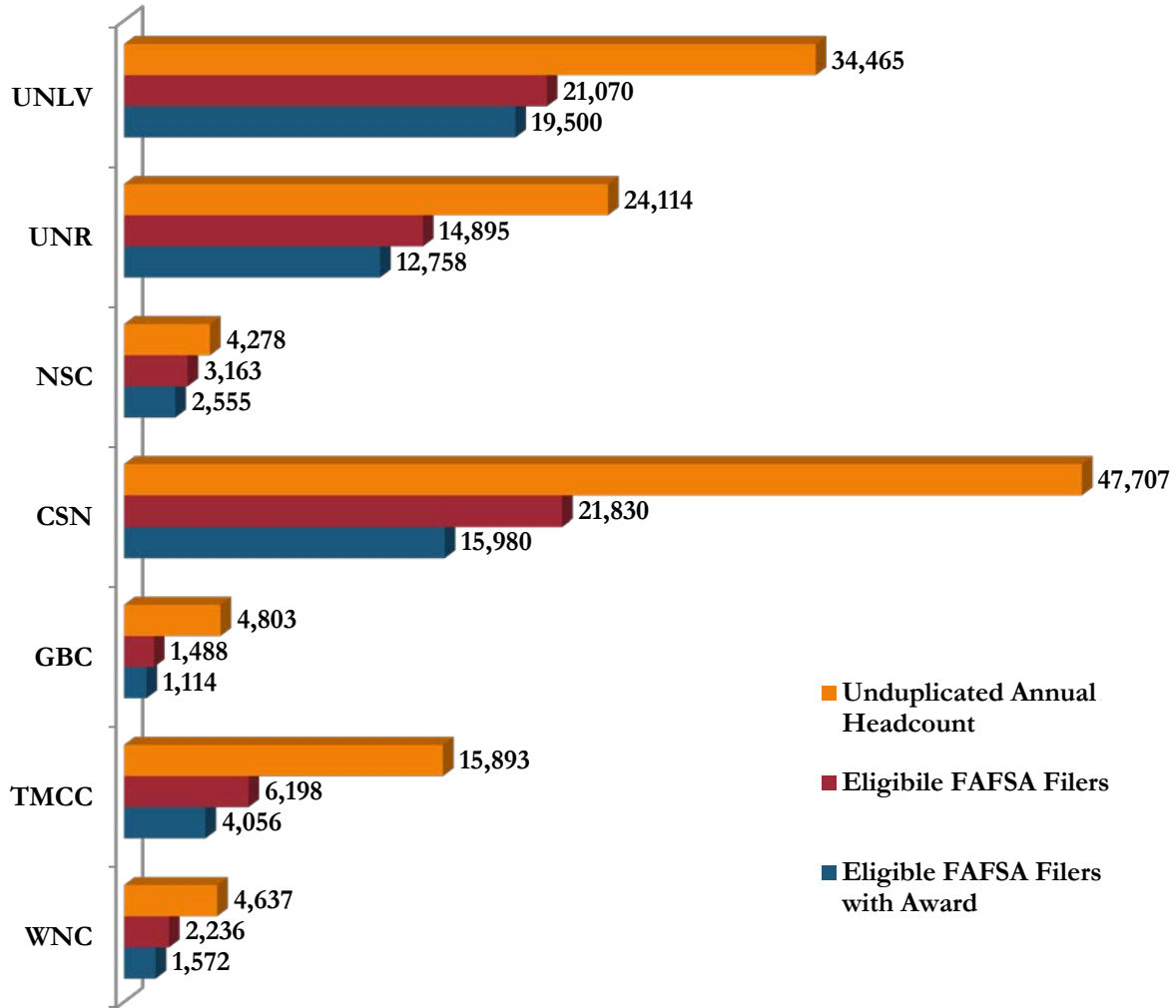
*Percentages exclude unknown and non-resident alien race/ethnicity categories.

**IPEDS, Fall 2015. Minority category includes all ethnicities included in the table except White, Non-Hispanic.

NSHE Financial Aid Applicants and Recipients

Figure 12 shows the number of enrolled FAFSA filers (financial aid applicants) as compared to the FISAP (see definition below) unduplicated institutional headcount and the number of enrolled FAFSA filers who received at least one financial aid award.

Figure 13 NSHE Total Enrolled Students, FAFSA Filers and Awards
2016-17



Definitions:

Unduplicated Annual Headcount: total number of enrolled students as reported on the Title IV Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) by each NSHE institution (Part II, Question 7 (a) and (b)).

Eligible FAFSA Filers: total number of enrolled students who completed a FAFSA and met citizenship or residency requirements (FISAP Part II, Question 40).

Eligible FAFSA Filers with Award: total number of students who completed a FAFSA, met citizenship or residency requirements and received at least one award.

NSHE Financial Aid Recipient Race & Ethnicity

Table 12 provides the percent distribution of financial aid recipients in the various racial/ethnic categories, by institution. In 2016-17, as in prior years, CSN awarded the highest percentage of Black and Hispanic students, while UNLV awarded the highest percentage of Asian students as well as students of two or more races, and GBC awarded the highest percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native students. NSC awarded the highest percentage of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students.

**Table 12 – NSHE Financial Aid Recipients by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution
2016-17 (percent distribution)**

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%	5.7%	1.7%	2.7%
Asian	14.5%	8.0%	11.7%	8.6%	1.4%	6.2%	1.5%
Black, non-Hispanic	10.5%	4.9%	11.2%	18.2%	3.3%	3.7%	3.2%
Hispanic	28.4%	23.3%	30.0%	31.4%	22.0%	29.2%	20.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1.1%	0.6%	2.1%	2.0%	1.1%	0.1%	0.6%
Two or More Races	10.6%	6.8%	6.7%	6.8%	3.0%	4.5%	3.4%
White, non-Hispanic	34.7%	55.4%	37.7%	32.4%	63.6%	54.6%	67.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Percentages exclude unknown race/ethnicity category.

Table 13 provides data on the percent distribution of financial aid disbursements in 2016-17 to students in the various racial/ethnic categories, by institution. This distribution is similar to those above for percentage of recipients.

**Table 13 – NSHE Financial Aid Disbursements by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution
2016-17 (percent distribution)**

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	0.9%	1.0%	0.7%	6.1%	1.8%	3.4%
Asian	13.7%	7.7%	11.5%	7.7%	1.0%	6.2%	1.2%
Black, non-Hispanic	12.1%	5.9%	12.6%	20.7%	3.9%	4.0%	3.6%
Hispanic	24.3%	22.3%	26.2%	29.0%	21.8%	27.2%	20.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1.2%	0.7%	2.3%	1.9%	1.3%	0.2%	0.7%
Two or More Races	10.1%	7.1%	6.9%	6.8%	2.3%	4.7%	4.0%
White, non-Hispanic	38.2%	55.4%	39.5%	33.3%	63.6%	55.9%	67.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Percentages exclude unknown race/ethnicity category.

Appendix A

Table 14 – NSHE Total Aid Disbursed by Type (Need/Non-Need)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Grants NB	\$149,495,126	\$155,097,252	\$162,637,710	\$159,283,095	\$154,811,455	-2.8%	3.6%
Grants NN	\$6,621,694	\$5,974,270	\$10,050,595	\$5,905,759	\$5,518,008	-6.6%	-16.7%
Grants Total	\$156,116,820	\$161,071,523	\$172,688,306	\$165,188,854	\$160,329,463	-2.9%	2.7%
Grants % NB	95.8%	96.3%	94.2%	96.4%	96.6%		
Grants-in-Aid NB	\$78,534	\$97,015	\$80,618	\$101,227	\$504,487	398.4%	542.4%
Grants-in-Aid NN	\$15,280,646	\$17,851,252	\$18,776,343	\$16,719,895	\$16,954,902	1.4%	11.0%
Grants-in-Aid Total	\$15,359,180	\$17,948,267	\$18,856,961	\$16,821,122	\$17,459,389	3.8%	13.7%
Grants-in-Aid % NB	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	2.9%		
Scholarships NB	\$702,808	\$4,702,387	\$5,150,217	\$7,372,784	\$8,257,866	12.0%	1075.0%
Scholarships NN	\$52,197,062	\$49,580,467	\$56,132,430	\$63,027,112	\$66,864,047	6.1%	28.1%
Scholarships Total	\$52,899,871	\$54,282,854	\$61,282,648	\$70,399,896	\$75,121,913	6.7%	42.0%
Scholarships % NB	1.3%	8.7%	8.4%	10.5%	11.0%		
Loans NB	\$79,336,375	\$89,686,397	\$90,851,522	\$81,357,252	\$77,249,800	-5.0%	-2.6%
Loans NN	\$183,585,617	\$195,776,147	\$206,629,288	\$194,006,175	\$196,115,872	1.1%	6.8%
Loans Total	\$262,921,992	\$285,462,544	\$297,480,810	\$275,363,427	\$273,365,672	-0.7%	4.0%
Loans % NB	30.2%	31.4%	30.5%	29.5%	28.3%		
Employment NB	\$4,717,582	\$3,548,393	\$4,056,643	\$4,050,295	\$3,809,575	-5.9%	-19.2%
Employment NN	\$48,712,091	\$52,352,157	\$52,175,651	\$55,846,014	\$58,776,812	5.2%	20.7%
Employment Total	\$53,429,673	\$55,900,550	\$56,232,294	\$59,896,310	\$62,586,388	4.5%	17.1%
Employment % NB	8.8%	6.3%	7.2%	6.8%	6.1%		
Total Need-Based*	\$234.3	\$253.1	\$262.8	\$252.2	\$244.6	-3.0%	4.4%
NB %	43.3%	44.0%	43.3%	42.9%	41.5%		
Total Non-Need*	\$306.4	\$321.5	\$343.8	\$335.5	\$344.2	2.6%	12.3%
NN %	56.7%	56.0%	56.7%	57.1%	58.5%		
Grand Total*	\$540.7	\$574.7	\$606.5	\$587.7	\$588.9	0.2%	8.9%

* dollars in millions

Key

NB = Need-based

NN = Non-need-based

Appendix B

Table 15 - NSHE Total Loan Disbursements from All Sources

	2015-16		2016-17		1 Year % Change	
	Dollars	Students	Dollars	Students	Dollars	Students
UNLV	\$141,198,744	11,965	\$141,892,864	12,006	0.5%	0.3%
UNR	\$82,239,318	8,320	\$86,574,775	8,320	5.3%	0.0%
NSC	\$11,785,609	1,615	\$11,670,763	1,609	-1.0%	-0.4%
CSN	\$27,399,958	6,744	\$23,591,267	5,865	-13.9%	-13.0%
GBC	\$2,044,022	300	\$1,928,400	277	-5.7%	-7.7%
TMCC	\$7,137,863	1,202	\$5,359,914	934	-24.9%	-22.3%
WNC	\$3,557,914	575	\$2,347,689	415	-34.0%	-27.8%
Total	\$275,363,427	30,721	\$273,365,672	29,426	-0.7%	-4.2%