ANNUAL REPORT 2023

UNLV | FOUNDATION

UNLV
UNLVStrong

"What has struck me — as we painfully tried to move through the worst day in history of our university and the worst day in our lives for many of us — is how this moment of darkness revealed the brightest in our friends, in our colleagues, and the strength of togetherness of our UNLV community."

UNLV President Keith E. Whitfield, UNLV Campus Vigil, Dec. 13, 2023

In Memoriam

Dr. Jerry Cha-Jan Chang

Dr. Naoko Takemaru

Dr. Patricia Navarro Velez

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Learn about the lives of UNLV professors Jerry Cha-Jan Chang, Naoko Takemaru, and Patricia Navarro Velez and their memorial scholarships.

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas wishes to acknowledge and honor the Indigenous communities of this region, and recognize that the university is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nuwuvi, Southern Paiute People. We offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations, and for the opportunity to study, learn, work, and be in community with this land.

In Healing and Solidarity

We had our letter written and ready to go. It was titled "Our Top Tier Vision," and it spoke about UNLV as a diverse, innovative, high-research, and community-focused institution. But on Dec. 6, everything changed.

A shooting that day on our campus took the lives of three beloved faculty members, left our university community reeling, and deeply affected our city. In many ways, it was our worst nightmare come true. But in that dark moment, we witnessed heroism from our first responders, we saw how students and employees looked out for one another, and we were overwhelmed by the incredible generosity, care, and concern that our community has for UNLV.

We know this: UNLV is compassionate, flexible, resilient, and strong. We will heal as individuals and as a university. It is going to take time, and we won't rush it but we will heal and be stronger than ever.

Healing will come from reconnecting to our Top Tier vision and mission to transform lives and improve our community through education and engagement. This is the "why" that inspires us to keep moving forward.

UNLV's Division of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement develops and leverages the resources necessary for success, including enhancing the institution's financial stability and fostering lifelong alumni engagement.

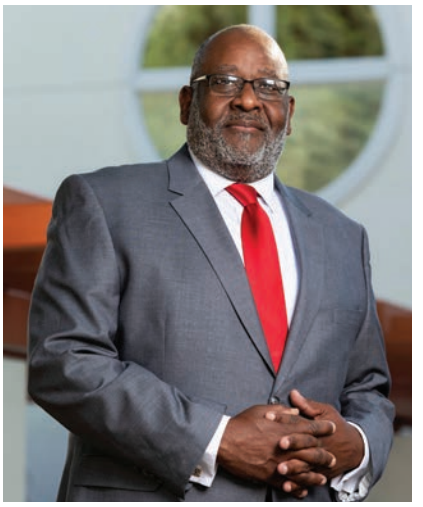
Indeed, the essence of our work is #UNLVStrong. Our role is also to connect you, our donors and alumni, to those whose lives you impact in important and meaningful ways. We share your stories of success and generosity as a reminder that gifts of every size matter. We are truly grateful. We've seen, first-hand, how philanthropy takes on an even deeper meaning in times of crisis because it reminds us that we will continue to heal, and to thrive, when we work together.

We hope you see the best of our community reflected in this report's stories of support and generosity from every part of our Rebel family, including students, alumni, local businesses, and esteemed community members.

With gratitude,

Keith E. Whitfield, Ph.D.

UNLV President



Rickey N. McCurry, J.D.

UNLV Foundation President
Vice President, Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement

UNLV's Rebel Legacy Campaign Inspires Students to Embrace Philanthropy

Among the honor cords that students wear at commencement is a green one, signifying those who give back to UNLV through the Rebel Legacy Campaign. (Photo by Becca Schwartz/UNLV)

During the 2022–2023 academic year, the UNLV Foundation introduced Rebel Legacy, an ongoing student philanthropy initiative. As a way of honoring their class year, students are invited to give gifts amounting to $20.22 for 2022 and $20.23 for 2023, and so forth. They can contribute to any area on campus that they cherish or to those that have had a significant impact on their college experience. In return, the student donors are each given a green cord to wear during their commencement ceremony as a symbol of their generosity.

From the start, students donated with heartfelt messages, some even in memory of loved ones. One student from the College of Education, who chose to remain anonymous, gave to the Boyd School of Law's immigration clinic to enable DACA Dreamers to pursue their happiness. Similarly, a student from Lee Business School donated to the Military & Veteran Services Center in honor of those bravely serving our country and continuing their education at UNLV.

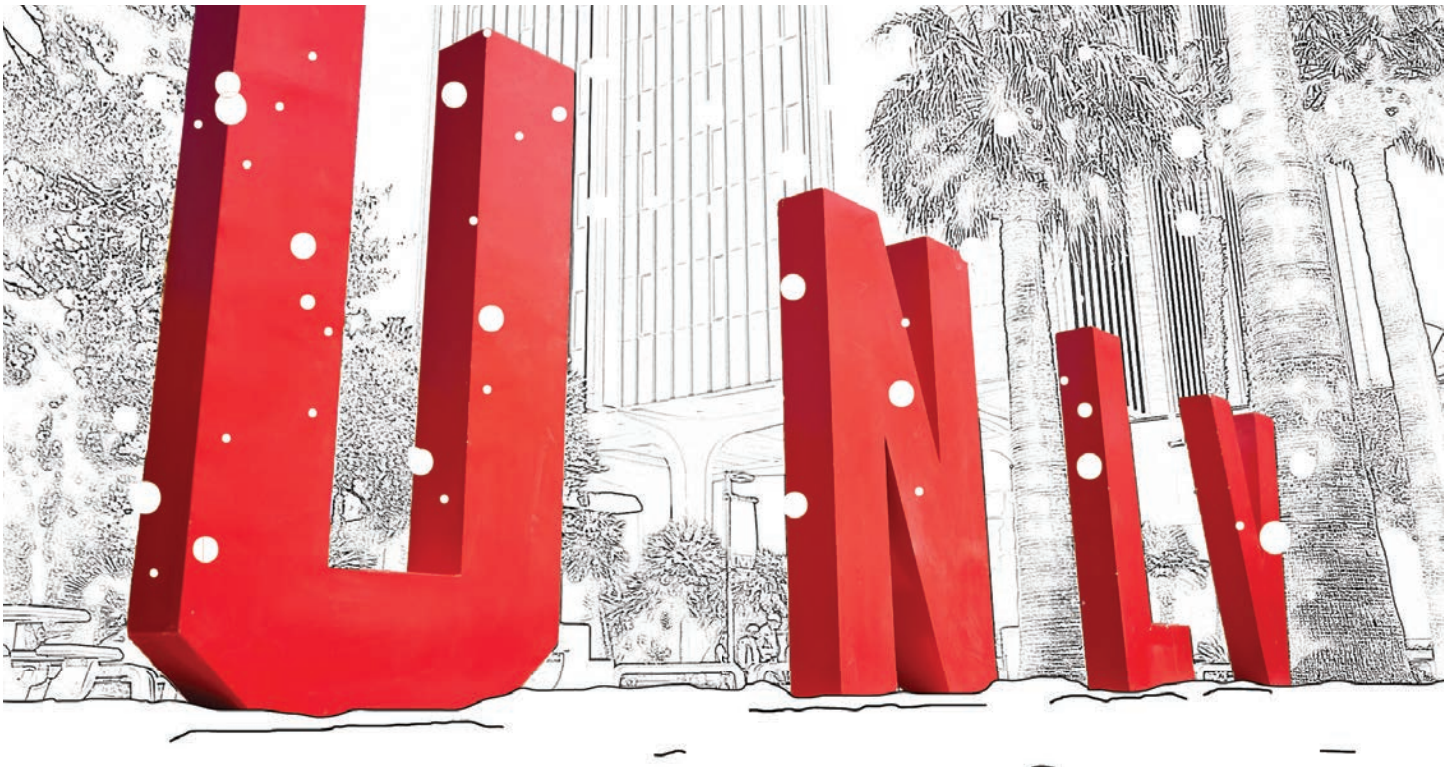
Support came through so many members of the UNLV community—undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni—and represented nearly all academic colleges and schools. The green generosity cords were a visual reminder of the generosity and spirit of giving at commencement ceremonies in both the fall and spring of the last school year.

UNLV REBEL LEGACY
our legacy, our impact

$9,000
Raised in the first year

Almost 500
Gifts to date

A Legacy of Holiday Giving That Grew From Grassroots



For over half a century, the UNLV faculty and staff have come together to support our students through the Holiday Card Scholarship campaign. This time-honored tradition has awarded scholarships to over 50 UNLV students, empowering them to pursue their educational aspirations.

In 1967, a group of young staff initiated the Holiday Card Tree project. It was established as a simple way for staff to exchange season's greetings with each other and the budding UNLV community. The idea was spearheaded by now-retired foreign language professor Don Schmiedel and his late wife, Grace: "It began to keep faculty from feeling obligated to send cards to one another because we were all just starting off, and we didn't have a lot of money," Don shared.

Over the years, the holiday card exchange evolved into a beloved campus tradition. Eventually it took on a charitable purpose too, inviting both current and retired faculty and staff to contribute to student scholarships. To date, this popular campaign has raised a remarkable $160,000 for scholarships, making higher education more accessible for more students every year.

Acundo Marcos, Nursing

2023-24 Faculty and Staff Holiday Card Scholarship Recipient

"I'm truly grateful for this scholarship. It has provided me with the opportunity to continue pursuing my passion in nursing and will fuel my determination to finish my final year with strength and purpose."

Varner Family Planned Gift to Fund New Graduate Assistantships

Kenny Varner's parents never attended college, but they worked hard to ensure their son did. Now, he's honoring their legacy by supporting first-generation and international doctoral students, as well as those from underrepresented backgrounds.

Kenny, associate dean for academic programs and initiatives in UNLV's College of Education, and his father Randy Varner, recently created a planned gift to the UNLV Foundation of approximately $1.6 million, via a living trust. Upon their passing, an endowment fund will be created to fund graduate assistantships.

The endowment honors Kenny's mother, Andrea, an immigrant from Germany who passed away unexpectedly in 2022. "My parents sacrificed everything so I could go to college," Kenny says. "It was a priceless gift. "With his passionate energy and parents' support, Kenny completed multiple degrees and now works with underserved and international students, overseeing partnerships with institutions in Argentina, Australia, Chile, Croatia, and Germany.

"In addition to honoring my mom, we want to ensure the money and their legacy goes on in perpetuity to support first-generation students like I was and international students who, like my mom, came to the U.S. to make a better life for herself."

Kenny's father said they want to build on their family's hard

work and make a meaningful difference. "I've always rooted for the underdog," Randy said, "and UNLV's commitment to being a minority-serving institution and supporting non-traditional students is in alignment with what our family values."

Hospitality Leaders to Create Endowment to Honor Stowe and Martha Shoemaker

When Stowe Shoemaker announced he was stepping down from the deanship last year, Las Vegas phones lit up.

Dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality for ten years, Dr. Shoemaker built a world-class program, secured funding for a state-of-the-art Hospitality Hall, and forged groundbreaking industry partnerships.

He and his wife Martha, a retired UNLV communications professor, were beloved for their warm and genuine support of students.

Now, those former students are industry leaders in gaming and hospitality, clamoring to give back.

"I can't tell you how many alums hit me up," says Rikki Tanenbaum '06 MA Hospitality Administration, SVP of strategic partnerships for FanDuel. "The visceral reaction was, we need to celebrate! Stowe has meant so much to so many people, as a friend, confidante, mentor, professor."

Enter the Stowe and Martha Shoemaker Endowment Fund, created by alumni and supporters in partnership with the UNLV Foundation and university leadership. Organizers include UNLV Foundation Board Chairman David Ross '95 '05; Trustee Cynthia Kiser Murphey '80 '95, general manager of The Palms Casino Resort; Trustee Rikki Tanenbaum; Ann Hoff '90, president and COO of Bellagio; Eileen Moore Johnson, strategic advisor to The Boring Company; Marc Falcone, founder of MF Ventures; and attorney Anthony L. Martin.

A party at The Palms kicked off the endowment; Stowe and Martha will also be honored with the naming of the Hospitality Hall's Stowe & Martha Shoemaker Alumni & Friends Veranda upon his retirement.

"It's a testament to a beloved, adored dean," Rikki says. "He did a thousand small things for people along the way."

UNLV is still benefiting from Stowe's expertise and generosity; he is currently serving as special assistant to the president of the UNLV Foundation. The Shoemaker endowment will fund scholarships for current and future UNLV hospitality students to pursue international study and other experiential activities; it's inspired by Stowe's and Martha's experience teaching at the École hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland.

"It was a mind-changing experience," Stowe says. "We want students to have the same opportunity, to enrich their overall thinking and expose them to the world beyond."

Longtime Finance Professor Funds New Student-Run Investment Program

"Look for value in everything: how you live, act, and invest." This guiding principle defines the Mehta family and their commitment to experiential learning.

Last year, Jagdish (Jag) Mehta — a longtime adjunct instructor at UNLV — and his wife, Devyani, gifted $100,000 to launch the Jagdish Mehta and Family Student Investment Fund. The fund will be managed by students in the Master of Science in Quantitative Finance (MSQF) program at UNLV's Lee Business School, taught by Professor Michael Sullivan.

Students will act as fund managers, researching and making buy and sell recommendations for S&P 500 stocks for their classmates to vote on. "The whole idea... is to step into the real world," Michael said. "Jag...has done a lot to help finance students experience investing first-hand, and this fund is a continuation of his efforts."

Originally from India, Jagdish earned two master's degrees and a doctorate in business administration from Michigan State University. In 1990, he moved with his wife and two sons to Las Vegas from Louisiana after losing nearly everything he'd invested when oil prices plummeted. A chance visit to UNLV led to a full-time associate finance professor position. Eventually, he requested a salary decrease and became an adjunct professor.

"Jag is more than an adjunct professor. He has taught students the guiding principles of building wealth for decades at UNLV," said Gerry Sanders, dean of the Lee Business School. "And now the legacy of his family has been established through the student investment fund."

Daniel Chi, chair of the Department of Finance, Jagdish Mehta, Devyani Mehta, and Lee Business School Dean Gerry Sanders. (Photo by UNLV PHOTO)

Jagdish still loves teaching, last fall launching a new course for senior finance majors. "My ambition for life is to achieve more success in investing for myself, as well as for hundreds of others who practice value investing and create funds that can help society and institutions," he said.

Lee Business School Graduate Gives Back to Her School and Students

From left: Lee Business School Dean Gerry Sanders, Minjia Yan, UNLV Foundation President Rickey N. McCurry, and AVP for Alumni Engagement Blake Douglas. (Photo by Anjanette Arnold)

Minjia Yan '16 wants to set a shining example — as a commercial real estate professional, alumni leader, UNLV lecturer, and donor, who recently created The Minjia Yan First-Generation Real Estate Endowed Scholarship.

Seeing other young alums start their own scholarships inspired her to help first-generation real estate students. "If you don't know anyone in this industry, it's really hard," Minjia said. "There are a lot of soft skills you need."

Minjia understands the privilege education confers. Born in China, she moved to Las Vegas at 11. Her grandparents and mother attended college, so she's not first-generation. But she has a heart for those who are. "To have more diversity in leadership positions in my industry, I need to help students get in the door today."

Minjia graduated from the Lee Business School as a member of Beta Alpha Psi for accounting students and a participant in the Lied Center for Real Estate's mentorship program. Fortuitously, she was paired with Jeff Chain, a developer and broker at Millennium Commercial Properties. She still works there today. In 2017, she traveled to New York University to pursue an M.S. in real estate.

She loved her studies but returned to Las Vegas the day after her last exam. "I thought `New York doesn't need me. Las Vegas needs me. I want to build my hometown.'"

She first volunteered with the UNLV Alumni Association at a tailgate in 2021, where "I met good people willing to cheer for each other."

Next, she joined the business school's alumni chapter board as treasurer. In 2022, she became founding president of the Asian American Pacific Islander Alumni Affinity Club. And last year, she traveled to Carson City with the association to lobby for UNLV. She also began teaching in the business school.

Finally, on August 1, 2023, she signed her scholarship endowment agreement with the UNLV Foundation. "I want all my students to be proud to be part of the Rebels family...you can contribute and give back to the community, no matter how big or how small. You can make a difference."

New UNLV Alumni Association President Supports First-Generation Students

David Navarro wants to help first-generation students navigate the pitfalls of college. He and his wife, Marvelyn, know firsthand the challenge of juggling finances and academics while learning to network and build careers.

"We're both first generation," said David '12 '13, MS Accounting, who became president of the Alumni Association in January. "My parents taught me to work hard and study. They always wanted me to aspire to college. But there were just things they didn't know."

The couple established the Navarro Family Access for All Endowed Scholarship in 2022 to support and mentor first-generation UNLV students.

David now serves as Nevada regional president at Enterprise Bank and Trust and on the Nevada Board of Finance. But he remembers his mistakes as a student. He had to learn self-discipline, how to balance school and work, and how to network. His parents helped pay for his undergraduate degree, but his master's degree required loans and debt.

"I thought when you graduated, employers would ring your phone off the hook. I had to learn the hard way."

He and Marvelyn, who studied dental hygiene at the College of Southern Nevada, want to alleviate students' stress. "Many first-generation students are the disruptors of poverty in their family," David said. "They can pass that benefit on to their children."

Marvelyn and David Navarro. (Photo by Anjanette Arnold)

Friends, colleagues, and contacts have supported their endowment. He's encouraging everyone he knows to learn more about giving.

"I always wanted to give back, but I thought an endowment is something you do at the end of your life," he said. Working with the UNLV Foundation, he was able to create a fund that works with his current finances. He can't wait to award their first scholarship.

With two young children, David knows giving isn't always convenient. "But I don't think I'll ever look back and say I wish I had given less."

Graduates of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.) Program

UNLV alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years have the opportunity to enrich the student experience and connect with fellow G.O.L.D. alumni through exclusive events and networking opportunities. The G.O.L.D program aims to support young alumni in their journey to give back and nurture future leaders while providing a platform to build meaningful relationships with fellow alumni.

Scan the QR code for more information about the program.

VIEW SITE

Scholarship Recipients Express Their Gratitude

Pedro Gonzalez

Doctor of Medicine | U.S. Anesthesia Partners (USAP) Scholarship Fund

Thank you so much for your contributions toward my academic success. As a first-generation American with no family in the medical field, the financial help and guidance have meant a lot to me. I plan to pursue a career in anesthesia and hope to be able to reciprocate the same help for future doctors as well.

Alyssa Fitzpatrick

Nursing | Ted & Maria Quirk Honors College Scholarship

Without your help, I don't think I would have the time or money to accomplish everything I am doing in my undergraduate degree. I am extremely grateful that I am supported financially for my academics. I am most proud of improving my time management skills. I balance a schedule of two jobs, a full course load, clubs, research, and shadowing doctors.

Stanley Baronett

Astronomy Ph.D. | Russell L. and Brenda Frank Scholarship

I greatly appreciate your financial support, which allows me to pursue a lifelong academic career in astrophysics. This scholarship has allowed me to focus on my research, publish journal articles, and present at academic conferences without having to worry about finances.

Claude McDougal

Business Entrepreneurial Studies | Sastaunik Veterans Scholarship

While at UNLV, I have enjoyed working with the Students Veterans of America, UNLV Chapter: Rebel Vets, and Phi Sigma Pi, Honors Society. I would like to say thank you for your help with our scholarship funding. Gifts like yours help make dreams like ours come true. Thank you for remembering us. I'm a non-traditional student in many ways, and I am personally ever so grateful for your generosity.

Jerwin Tiu

Marketing | Bank of America NV Business Scholarship

Thank you for your generous donation. I simply would not have been able to attend UNLV without your kindness and support. I live in a low-income single parent household, so there are no disposable funds for my education. I hope to one day make positive waves of change, and I owe any contributions I make to humanity to the generosity of donors.

Toree Robinson
Juris Doctor | Emilie N. Wanderer Scholarship Endowment

Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to attend the William S. Boyd School of Law and work toward my dream of becoming an attorney. After law school, I hope to stay in Las Vegas and make a difference in the community. As a minority woman, I hope to be a part of the movements toward making the legal field more diverse and I hope to start my own scholarship later on in my own career to give back.

Engelstad Scholarship Program Promotes Community Service

The Engelstad Scholars Program was established by the Engelstad Family Foundation through an endowment of $12.625 million in 2009. The mission of the Engelstad Scholars Program is to benefit students in financial need by granting scholarships to full-time students who seek to improve the quality of life for those in the Las Vegas Valley through community service initiatives. To date, there have been 350 Engelstad scholars. Students admitted to the program are required to complete 100 hours of community service annually through one of our partner nonprofit organizations.

Maria Alejandra Martinez Pena
Kinesiology

I want to thank you so much for providing me with the opportunity to be part of higher education. I've been able to expand my views and opportunities by attending UNLV. I get to enjoy what I am studying and focus 100% of my time on my academics, thanks to scholarships. This opportunity will provide me with the ability to be successful in the future and provide for my family. I love UNLV!

Sergio Gamboa
Composition (Music)

These scholarships have helped me focus on important things I wouldn't have been able to work on with a part/full-time job. I have been able to focus on self-improvement in all aspects of my person. I am proud of learning another language. I have had more free time to work on my mental health and learning extra skills that will help me get unique opportunities in my future career writing music.

Dailuaine Esguerra
Computer Science

To my scholarship donors, I can't express in words how grateful I am to have my academic goals funded. After I graduate and achieve my dream job, I hope to give back to my community by designing products that change the world for the better and improve the lives of others. It is thanks to your donation that I am able to work toward this goal.

Making Room to Grow

Jessica Morales Alverez (left) is one of many UNLV students who relies on the childcare services provided by the UNLV/CSUN Preschool at Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center. (Photo by Jeff Scheid)

The UNLV/CSUN Preschool at the Lynn Bennett Center for Early Childhood Education is about to hit a big growth spurt.

A few years after the Carlson Education Building opened its doors, the UNLV/CSUN Preschool, run by two teachers in two classrooms, welcomed the littlest Rebels to campus. Not long after, a toddler room was opened, and two portable buildings were added in the 1990s, bringing the preschool's capacity to 75. Despite these measures, the need for on-campus childcare continued to grow along with the rest of the campus.

In 2004, the preschool moved into the newly built Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center building. Encompassing 21,000 square feet of indoor learning spaces with 12 classrooms, a family library, and multipurpose room. The project also included 30,000 square feet of playground space.

But demand at the preschool has always outpaced the facility's capacity and the current waitlist stands at 200+ children eager for a spot.

"Most children on the waiting list age out before a space becomes available," notes Preschool Director Claire Tredwell. Priority has always been given to student parents, who make up 35% of the families served by the preschool. Nearly a quarter of them receive at least one form of tuition assistance, like the CCAMPIS Grants.

Growth seems to be contagious at the preschool. Although its young students are seemingly inching up by the day, the center is about to have one big growth spurt. Slated to begin construction later this year, the preschool expansion project will extend the facility's footprint extensively and add:

- 10 new classrooms
- Four new shaded play areas, including an infant play area
- Garden areas outside each classroom
- Improved operational spaces, like an industrial kitchen, additional office space, and storage

The current space will get a makeover of its own with new carpeting and flooring, insulation, and classroom upgrades. In the end, the expansion will allow the preschool to double its capacity, serving about 350-400 more children each year.

Even though a generous anonymous $10 million donation is getting the project started, an additional $6 million is needed to complete its funding. "We're hopeful that, between other donors and our engraved brick campaign, we'll be able to bridge that last funding hurdle," says College of Education Dean Danica Hays.

MORE INFO

Beal Bank Scholarship Aims to Spark Young Scientists

Asking questions. Testing ideas. Solving problems. Delivering breakthroughs.

For 18 years, Beal Bank USA has championed science and engineering education and exploration, donating millions of dollars to support regional science fairs in Nevada and Texas. The goal? To inspire the next generation of scientists to think for themselves, develop and test their theories, and solve unanswered questions to benefit humankind.

From left: College of Sciences Dean Eric Chronister, science fair winners Jennifer Hsu and Samuel Chen, and College of Sciences Director of Communications Erica Corliss. (Photo by Connie Palen)

The Beal Bank USA Southern Nevada Regional Science & Engineering Fair, organized by UNLV's College of Sciences, is held on campus every year, giving K-12 students a unique opportunity to showcase their knowledge and talent.

Now, the bank has created the Beal Bridge to College Scholarship for science fair participants to lower barriers to access and encourage students to envision themselves attending UNLV to pursue advanced education within the sciences or engineering.

"Beal Bank USA's annual sponsorship of the science and engineering fair allows young students to gain first-hand experience with science and the scientific process," College of Sciences Dean Eric Chronister said. "In addition to the impact of the fair itself, its support for the Bridge to College Scholarship will allow UNLV the opportunity to help local students to realize educational and career goals in STEM."

Beal Bank USA has sponsored the science fair since 2006 and in 2009 became the exclusive title sponsor. In 2023, the fair featured 522 projects from 60 Nevada schools, with mentoring science educators receiving support for research supplies. The fair's high school grand prize winner goes on to represent Southern Nevada at the prestigious Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair.

Jennifer, a recent science fair participant, called the experience fun, challenging, and life changing. "It gives students a chance to see their world — and see themselves — in a new way."

In 2023, the Beal Bank USA Southern Nevada Regional Science & Engineering Fair featured 522 projects from 60 Nevada schools.

2023 Palladium Society Honorees Create Possibilities

Generosity creates possibility. The exceptional generosity of UNLV's 2023 Palladium Society honorees is expanding opportunities for students and faculty to explore, to learn, to dream, and to succeed. The Palladium Society recognizes individuals and organizations who have contributed $1 million or more in support of UNLV. Welcome – and thank you – to our 2023 Palladium Society inductees.

Beal Bank USA

Beal Bank USA founder Andrew Beal is a champion of STEM education. Under his leadership, Beal Bank and Beal Bank USA have donated more than a million dollars to UNLV to support knowledge and discovery through regional science fairs.

Since 2006, Beal Bank USA has been a significant sponsor – and in 2009 became the exclusive title sponsor – of the Beal Bank USA Southern Nevada Regional Science & Engineering Fair. The fair is held annually on the UNLV campus. It offers elementary, middle, and high school students from across Southern Nevada a unique opportunity to develop their scientific curiosity and creativity.

Beal Bank USA

Nevada Gold Mines

Nevada Gold Mines, a joint venture between Barrick and Newmont, is the single largest gold-producing complex in the world. Creating a skilled, sustainable workforce is central to its mission. Partnering with UNLV, it is providing unique and rewarding opportunities to next-generation professionals.

At UNLV, Nevada Gold Mines provides scholarships in science, business, the Honors College, and STEM diversity. It sponsors case competitions, graduate assistantships, professorships, and faculty fellowships, as well as the College of Sciences GeoSymposium and the Honors College Nevada Tour. It also supports UNLV's Pathways for Career & Workforce Development program and the Math Bridge Program.

NEVADA GOLD MINES
OPERATED BY BARRICK

Nevada Surplus Lines Foundation

The goal of the Nevada Surplus Lines Foundation is to bolster employment opportunities in the crucial field of insurance and risk management. With 50% of the industry workforce expected to retire by 2040, it is creating a pipeline of regional insurance professionals.

Its $5M gift to UNLV in Spring 2023 created the Kerestesi Center for Insurance and Risk Management in Lee Business School. It is named in tribute to Tom Kerestesi, a past director of NSLF and former CEO of Cragin & Pike, Nevada's oldest insurance agency. Through education, research, and experiential learning, the center will be the premier academic insurance and risk management program in the Western U.S.

NEVADA SURPLUS NSLF LINES FOUNDATION

Stephanie I. Vondrak

Bringing the joy of artistic expression to others is central to Stephanie Vondrak's philanthropy. She has a deep-seated passion for theater, music, and the visual arts. And when she wanted to make an impact on the cultural vivacity of Las Vegas, connecting with UNLV's College of Fine Arts was the natural choice.

Stephanie created the David and Stephanie Vondrak Endowment for Knowledge in the Arts as a lasting tribute to her husband of 42 years, David, who passed away in 2012. The fund helped launch the College of Fine Arts Around the World initiative, which demonstrates to students what it means to be a global artist-citizen.

Stephanie I. Vondrak

Melody and Harmony: An Endowed Fund to Support and Build Upon Excellence in Jazz and Commercial Music Honors the Life and Legacy of John C. Unrue

John Unrue was a transformational force at UNLV. A dedicated scholar of literature and a skilled administrator, he was a beloved teacher, a respected academician, and a community volunteer who helped foster the arts in Las Vegas and at UNLV. He was also a loving husband and father, and a loyal friend.

John passed away in 2022; his wife of 61 years, UNLV distinguished professor Darlene Harbour Unrue, and his daughter, Jane, were by his side. Today, in honor of John's legacy, Darlene and Jane have established an endowed fund through the UNLV Foundation with an initial gift of $50,000. The fund — to which family friends Jimmy Kimmel and Molly McNearney have added a gift of $25,000 — will support jazz students in UNLV's College of Fine Arts, now and for years to come.

"John loved music," Darlene said, "but he especially loved jazz."

The Unrues arrived in Las Vegas in 1970. John began his career as an English professor who taught medieval literature, but he continued to take on more leadership responsibilities until his retirement in 2014. He served as director of composition, chair of the English department, dean of what was then called the College of Arts and Letters, senior vice president, and provost.

Colleagues remember John as a fair-minded administrator and a superb teacher, possessing high academic standards, which he modeled in his own scholarship. Over the years, his interests shifted from medieval literature to more modern figures, including Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and J. D. Salinger. He served as a consultant for a PBS documentary on Salinger.

His achievements as an administrator were instrumental to UNLV's advancing from the "Tumbleweed Tech" days (there were just 5,700 students when Unrue arrived) to its current status as a Carnegie Research 1 university.

John had a "consuming interest in the arts," according to Chris Hudgins, an emeritus professor and former dean of the College of Liberal Arts. John served on the boards of the Nevada Dance Theatre, the Las Vegas Symphony Association, the Allied Arts Council, and was one of the founders of the The Las Vegas Jazz Society. He was deeply involved in the planning and implementation of M.F.A. programs in creative writing and fine and performing arts, and was especially passionate about the program in jazz.

Now his legacy will live on at UNLV, making it possible for jazz students to pursue meaningful careers in the arts.

John Unrue during his time as UNLV's senior vice president and provost. (UNLV Special Collections)

"We could not be more grateful to Darlene and Jane for their generous gift in honor of Professor Unrue," said College of Fine Arts Dean Nancy Uscher. "This scholarship is such a beautiful testament to John's passions, his service to UNLV, and his life."

Gifts to UNLV Keep Small Businesses Safe from Cyber Threats

Hacking. Ransomware. Phishing attacks. These are contemporary worries of any small business. Thanks to a gift from AT&T and grants totaling more than $3 million, UNLV is more prepared than ever to support cybersecurity education in the Vegas community through the UNLV Free Cyber Clinic.

The cyber clinic is a student-led organization that provides cybersecurity measures to small businesses. It collaborates with the UNLV Office of Economic Development and the Nevada Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to identify vulnerabilities in the computer systems of SBDC clients and then help protect them from online threats.

More than a dozen local clients have received support through the program so far. Now, with the additional funds, the clinic aims to enhance programming, increase the number of trained students, and turn its success into a national model.

According to Juyeon Jo, clinic co-director and director of UNLV's National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity, "There is a growing need for cybersecurity services in every industry sector, but there aren't enough cybersecurity professionals with the right experience. The students from our clinic will be equipped to fill this gap."

The clinic builds on UNLV's 2019 designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education, and its commitment to becoming a powerhouse in cybersecurity education and workforce development nationally. UNLV also offers an interdisciplinary master's program in cybersecurity, and one of its fastest growing degree programs is computer science.

> "Cybersecurity jobs are in high demand but often require hands-on experience.
>
> The UNLV Free Cyber Clinic has been training our students to serve real-world clients. As a result, many land internships and full-time jobs in cybersecurity without difficulty."
>
> Yoohwan Kim, UNLV Free Cyber Clinic Director

Gift Makes It Possible to "Chase" Entrepreneurial Dreams

Thanks to ongoing support from JPMorgan Chase, UNLV is on track to help even more individuals in Nevada realize their entrepreneurial dreams — especially underserved entrepreneurs.

The Nevada Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at UNLV provides no-cost, confidential business advising, training, and resources to entrepreneurs statewide. Since its inception, the center has helped create 437 new businesses, served nearly 6,000 clients, and acquired almost $95 million in capital on behalf of the small business sector. Now, JPMorgan Chase is flipping the equation by helping them.

Last fiscal year, the JPMorgan Chase Foundation made a gift of $116,000 to the UNLV Foundation in support of the SBDC. This year, the financial institution made an additional two-year grant totaling $250,000. That's a total donation of $366,000 over the last two years.

"JPMorgan Chase is proud to support UNLV's SBDC program to help entrepreneurs sustain and grow their businesses," said David Garcia, head of the J.P. Morgan Private Bank in Las Vegas, who also chairs JPMorgan Chase's local leadership team. "Our support can help the SBDC increase participation in this program of underserved entrepreneurs and advance inclusive economic growth in Clark County."

The bank's support has already made a difference in the center's ability to fulfill its mission. As a result of the funding, Rachel Gomez Autry, a key hire, came on board to increase its visibility. She is a business development advisor who also spends time fostering

relationships within the center's target populations.

Rachel attends expos and networking events, including seeking out women-owned business empowerment groups, to reach potential entrepreneurs that financial institutions or traditional business development channels may overlook.

She explained that many people who engage with the SBDC are just beginning their entrepreneurial journey—they may have an idea for a startup and are seeking to pivot careers. Others want or need to revamp their existing businesses and have questions about what's possible. Finally, some find themselves with the good fortune of having a company that's taking off, and they need guidance to manage the growth.

"We talk and get to know one another," Rachel said of SBDC's clients. "We often create deeper connections that lead to more discussions—and more services."

Tom and Leslie Thomas Boost Small Business Initiatives at the Boyd School of Law

A transformational gift from longtime donors Tom and Leslie Thomas will help students at UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law gain legal skills, master professional rules, and advocate for small businesses.

The couple's donation establishes a special fund within the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic. The Tom and Leslie Thomas Small Business Initiative Endowment Fund will support clinical legal education, in which students learn substantive law and practice in the context of real cases. The gift supports the clinic's goal to provide small local businesses with the legal guidance and education they need to succeed.

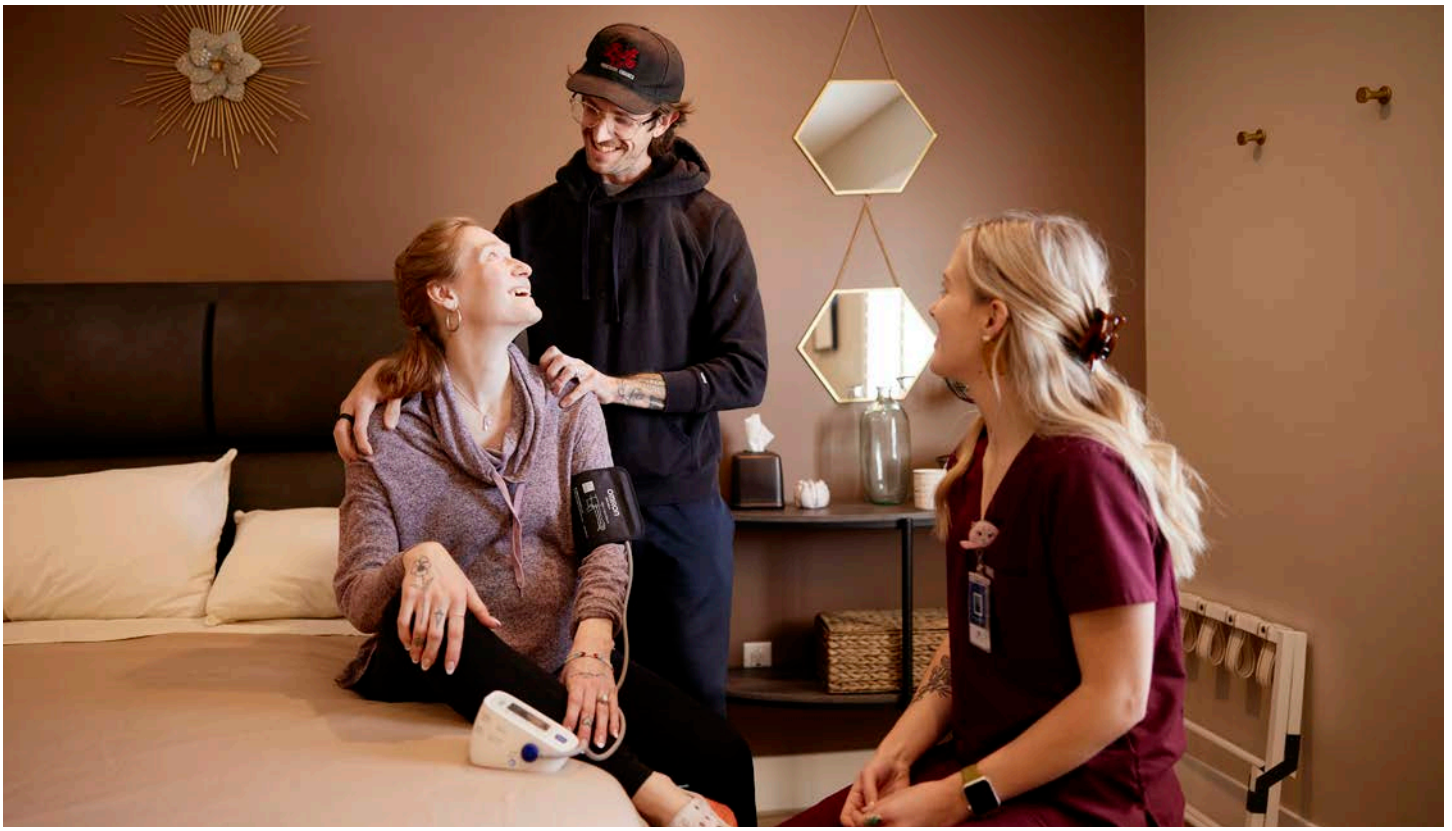
Tom has previously chaired the UNLV President's Associates and currently serves as a trustee on the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees. The Thomas family has a long legacy of generosity to UNLV that has left an indelible mark on the university.

The couple's recent commitment to the law school further advances student education and will benefit community members beyond campus.

"We are extremely grateful to Tom and Leslie Thomas for this impactful gift. Their generosity will make a critical difference in the law school's efforts to assist small businesses in the community with their various legal issues."

Leah Chan Grinvald, Dean , Richard J. Morgan Professor of Law

New UNLV Midwifery Program Trains Critical Caregivers



Kristin Riley, accompanied by her spouse Derek, at an appointment with their midwife, Morgan Wolfe, at Serenity Birth Center. (Photo by Josh Hawkins/UNLV)

For years, aspiring midwives had to leave the state to pursue their dream of delivering babies. But a new UNLV School of Nursing midwifery program is attracting students to Southern Nevada, answering a critical shortage in maternal healthcare providers.

Generous scholarships from longtime donors Ed and Shauna Smith, combined with significant state funding, are supporting two full-time and four part-time students in the program's first year. Shauna is a retired nurse; the couple supports the nursing school and other programs, with a strong focus on women, single mothers, and hunger, and often adapting their giving to current needs.

"They really have a heart for the school," said Eden Cheung, Director of Development, School of Nursing.

Midwifery Program Director Kate Woeber said the donor support is incredible. "We want to take away that barrier and make it easier for practicing nurses or nursing students to become midwives."

Making More Midwives

Becoming a midwife has historically been hard for Nevadans, who – prior to UNLV's program – had to train out-of-state. They also could not own and operate birth centers; they had to work for a supervising physician.

In 2012, nurse practitioners gained the right to run their own practices, opening the door for midwives, said April Clyde '00 BS Nursing and 2023 School of Nursing Alumna of the Year. April joined the effort to lobby state legislators to approve birth centers and is now owner of Serenity Birth Center and a nursing school midwife preceptor (mentoring supervisor).

"We are short more than 130 full-time maternal caregivers just in Clark County," she said. "An answer to this crisis is more midwives and more birth centers."

April previously ran a solo practice and trained students from other states. Now, she employs four

other midwives ready to train. "I'm beyond excited that these UNLV students are women who will likely stay here."

Rita Marrero '12 Doctor of Nursing Practice is another midwife and preceptor who's trained many out-of-state students. Previously in private practice, Rita now works in the UNLV School of Medicine. With access to University Medical Center, she has unique privileges and 50 years of experience.

"Now, happily, I can invest in our own students in Southern Nevada," Rita said. "I think they have excellent candidates and I'm happy these students have the opportunity."

Financial Support Equals Opportunity

The students benefiting from the Smiths' scholarship are incredibly grateful and committed to caring for Nevada mothers.

Scholarship recipient Rachel Matthews switched to midwifery from the nurse practitioner program. "Midwifery has always been my goal, but I wanted to attend school locally."

After graduating from the 18-month program, she looks forward to fulfilling the program's requirements: to work in Nevada for three years and serve as a clinical preceptor for future UNLV midwifery students. "I have two young kids," she said. "Being able to do this on a scholarship is huge."

Scholarship recipient Sara Richins currently lives in Washington, but plans to move to Nevada with her husband and seven children. A working labor and delivery nurse, Sara appreciates the program's online courses; she flies to Las Vegas regularly to fulfill her clinical hours.

"I've had to sacrifice time with my family, to balance homework, sleep, and work," she admits. "But the scholarship was a factor in coming to UNLV." She can't wait to move to Las Vegas and work locally.

For April and Rita, training local midwives is immensely gratifying after years of watching their students return to other states. "As much as I enjoy this, I can't do it forever," Rita said. "It's nice to hand off to the next generation."

April Clyde '00 BS Nursing was the UNLV School of Nursing's 2023 Alumna of the Year. She also opened Serenity Birth Center, the first free-standing birth center in Southern Nevada. (Photo by Michael Roberts)

Scholarship recipient Sara Richins with UNLV School of Medicine midwife preceptor Rita Marrero, Certified Nurse-Midwife and '12 Doctor of Nursing Practice.

$5 Million to Lee Business School Helps Ensure the Insurance Workforce

Fifty percent of the insurance and risk management workforce is expected to retire by 2040, according to industry reports, which is one reason why the $5 million gift from the Nevada Surplus Lines Foundation (NSLF) to the UNLV Lee Business School is as timely as it is valuable.

The NSLF gift helped establish the Kerestesi Center for Insurance and Risk Management within the business school. The center is named in tribute to Tom Kerestesi, a past director of NSLF and former CEO of Cragin & Pike, Nevada's oldest insurance agency. And the goal? To create a pipeline of insurance professionals and bolster employment opportunities in insurance and risk management throughout the region.

The center will advance faculty and student research in the areas of insurance and risk management and serve as a resource for students seeking career opportunities in the industry. It will also offer a specialized undergraduate degree program in insurance and risk management, and collaborate with leading insurance companies to provide student internships, externships, and mentorship programs. Finally, it will host seminars, workshops, and conferences featuring industry experts, leaders, and policymakers.

"The Center for Insurance and Risk Management at UNLV's Lee Business School represents a significant step towards elevating the prominence of insurance and risk management education and research," said Gerry Sanders, dean of the Lee Business School at UNLV. "By combining academic excellence, industry partnerships, and community engagement, the center will be a catalyst for growth and innovation within the field."

Kerestesi Center for Insurance & Risk Management namesake Tom Kerestesi with his son, Cragin & Pike Insurance CEO Scott Kerestesi.

UNLV affiliate professor Chris Utterback has been named to lead the center. Utterback helped establish UNLV's existing academic minor in risk management and insurance, and brings more than 40 years of experience in the industry.

WATCH VIDEO

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Kerestesi Center.

"The demand for qualified professionals to bolster the industry has never been greater, and the profession is well-positioned to meet the personal and professional goals of new college graduates who increasingly seek flexible work arrangements and work-life balance as the economy continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic."

Chris Utterback, UNLV Affiliate Professor

New Wheels Mean More Food for UNLV Food Pantry

Representatives from UNLV and Three Square celebrated the UNLV Food Pantry van debut on Nov. 6.

The UNLV Food Pantry's shelves will stay generously stocked, thanks to a new van dedicated to picking up donations from local grocery stores.

The van service, created in partnership with Three Square Food Bank and the Molasky family, will support the food pantry in its mission to alleviate hunger on campus.

According to university leadership, one in five UNLV students experience food insecurity. Beth Martino, president and CEO of Three Square, said one in eight Southern Nevadans face hunger. By providing nutritious, high-quality food to students, staff, and faculty, the pantry tackles that need.

"I'm grateful that we've found a terrific partner in the UNLV Food Pantry to address this critical need among the campus and surrounding area," Beth said.

"These partnerships are crucial to the food bank's pursuit of a hunger-free community, and the UNLV Food Pantry's commitment to feeding our neighbors will help alleviate the concern for those experiencing hunger on a daily basis."

UNLV is committed to combating food insecurity on campus and ensuring students do not go hungry, so they can focus on their studies.

"This new van is exactly what we needed to help take the UNLV Food Pantry to the next level," said Ron Brown, dean of UNLV's School of Integrated Health Sciences, which operates and manages the pantry. "This public-private partnership is a perfect example of how we can make a difference in the lives of those who need it most."

UNLV FOOD PANTRY

MORE INFO

31,094
Student Headcount

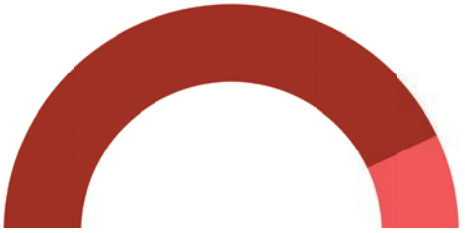
25,795
Undergraduate

4,282
Graduate

1,044
Professional

76%
Undergrads taking a full-time load

50%
of students will be the first in their family to earn a four-year degree



86%
of students are Nevada residents

Tuition & Fees

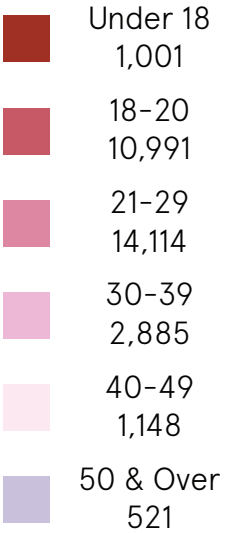
$4,727
Undergraduate - Nevada resident

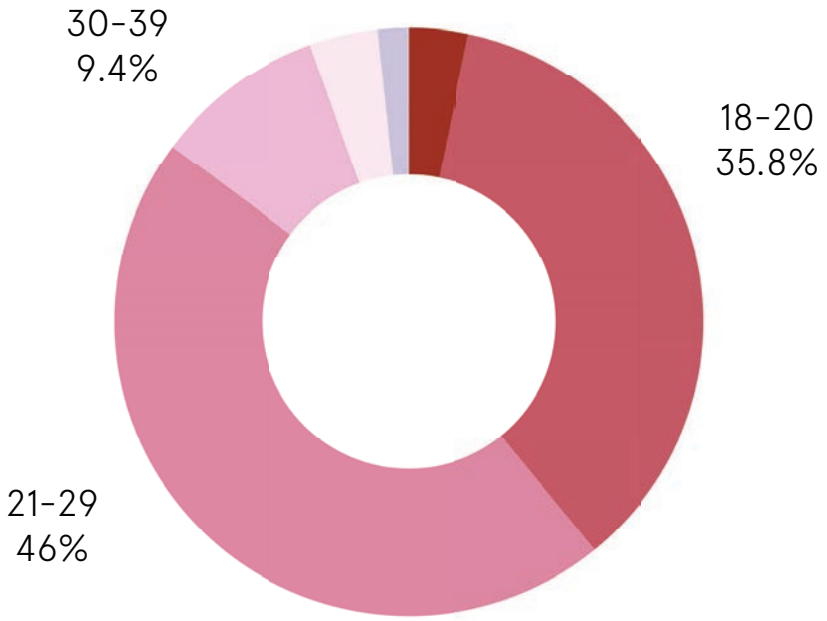
$13,205
Undergraduate - Non-resident

$3,607
Graduate - Nevada resident

$12,085
Graduate - Non-resident

Student Ages





UNLV has rapidly grown as an institution thanks to the support of the local community and alumni across the globe.

145,645
Alumni

165,311
Degrees Awarded Since 1964

1 in 5
Clark County residents with at least a bachelor's degree from UNLV

69%
Undergraduate Only

16%
Graduate Only

UNLV Colleges with the Most Graduates

Business..... 24,898

Education..... 24,055

Liberal Arts..... 20,797

Hospitality..... 19,254

Urban Affairs..... 18,357

Top 5 UNLV Alumni Industries

1. Education
2. Hospitality
3. Healthcare
4. Financial Services
5. Real Estate

Top 5 UNLV Alumni Employers

1. Clark County School District
2. University of Nevada, Las Vegas
3. MGM Resorts International
4. Caesars Entertainment
5. Clark County

UNLV Alumni Are Located In

16
Nevada counties

50
States

77
Countries

The UNLV Foundation was established in 1981 to raise and manage private donations that benefit UNLV and its colleges, schools, programs, and students.

2023 - 2024 UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees

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Tony F. Sanchez III '88, Vice Chairman
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Keith E. Whitfield, Ph. D., President, UNLV
Rickey N. McCurry, J.D., President, UNLV Foundation

Affiliated Foundations Representatives

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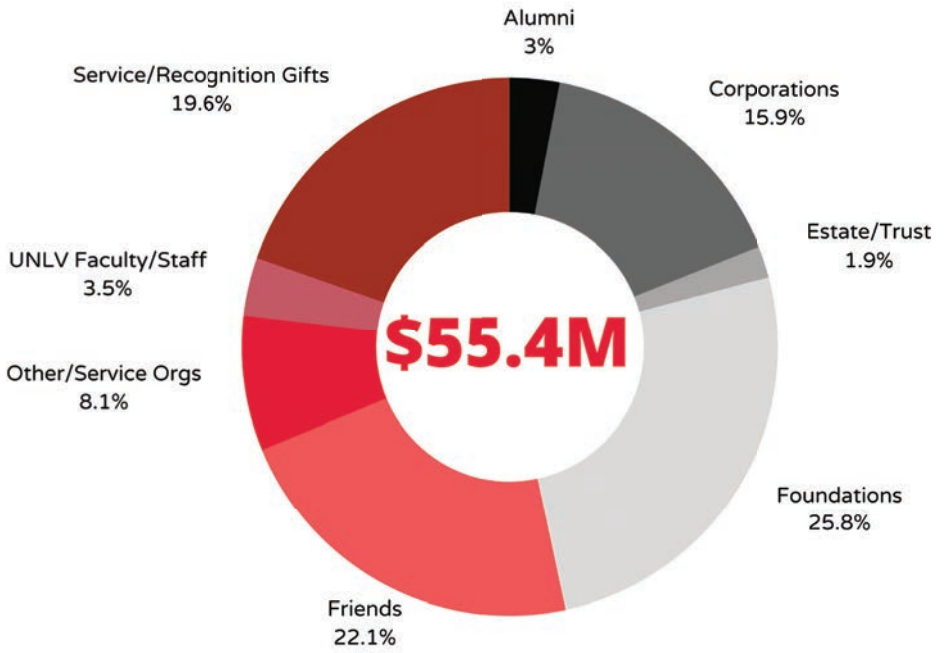
Casey Flair '08, President, UNLV Football Foundation
Daniel Giraldo '01, President, UNLV Soccer Foundation
Steve Comer, Chairman UNLV Research Foundation
Jim Bianco, President, UNLV Rebel Golf Foundation

In FY23, the UNLV Foundation raised more than $55.4 million in cash, stocks, service/recognition gifts, and pledges.

Sources of Giving FY23

Foundations	$14,294,930
Friends*	$12,253,187
Corporations	$8,813,986
Other/Service Orgs	$4,507,858
UNLV Faculty/Staff	$1,951,098
Alumni	$1,644,908
Estate/Trust	$1,055,377
Total	$44,521,346
Service/Recognition Gifts**	$10,842,200
Grand Total***	$55,363,546



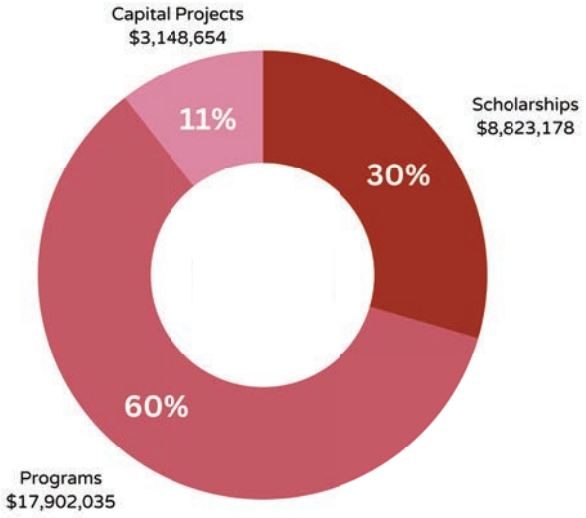
**The Friends Category includes Friends plus all other primary constituency codes outside of the Source Codes listed here to total up to FY23 fundraising $$'s.*

***Service/Recognition Gifts include nonfinancial donations such as professional or technical services, expertise, or other assets in which ownership is not transferred but the benefit of use or a discount is granted.*

****Financial figures herein are calculated in accordance with fundraising industry counting standards, whereas the UNLV Foundation audited financial statements are calculated in accordance with the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB).*

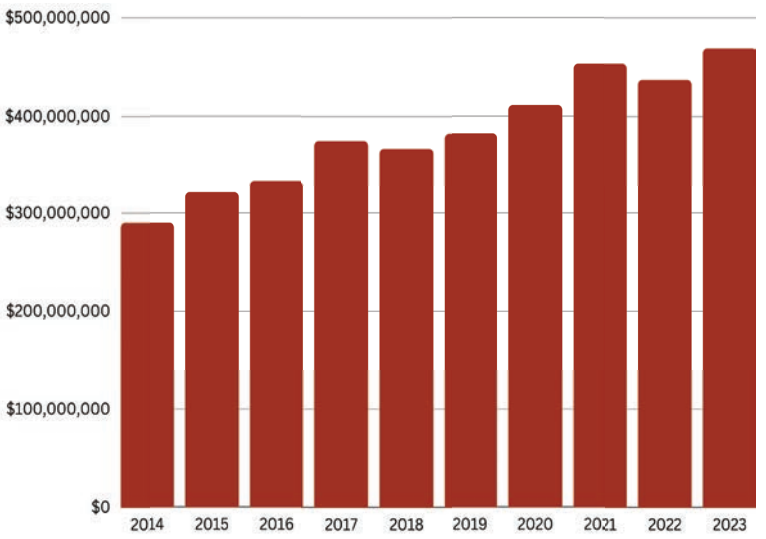
In fulfillment of its mission to provide support to UNLV, the UNLV Foundation delivered $29.8 million in program, scholarship, and capital project support to the university in FY23. The UNLV Foundation's assets totaled $468.1 million as of June 30, 2023. This compares to assets of $436.1 million one year prior.

Campus Support & Foundation Assets



$29,873,867
In campus support

Foundation Total Assets Fair Market Value



UNLV Scholarships 2022 - 2023

11 million
Privately funded scholarship dollars awarded

7,000
Individual scholarship awards funded

$1,570
Average award amount

Endowment Performance & Allocations

8.35%

The UNLV Foundation Endowment Fund had a net return of 8.35% for all assets. This compares to the benchmark policy index of 7.76%.

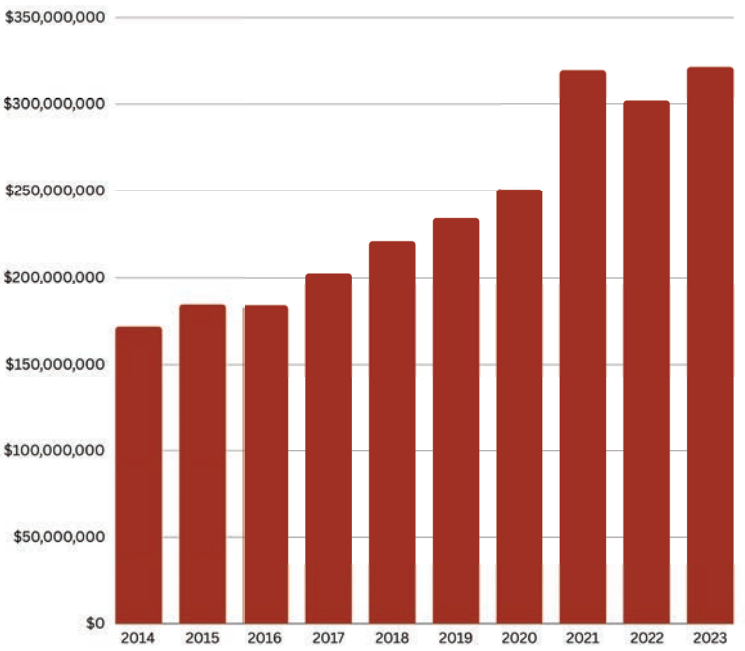
$321,623,080

Fair Market Value as of June 30, 2023

6.54%

The net change after fees, distributions, and gifts was 6.54%. The fair market value of the endowment increased from $301.9 M on June 30, 2022 to $321.6 M on June 30, 2023.

Fiscal Year	Fair Market Value
2014	$171,609,624
2015	$184,189,320
2016	$183,750,373
2017	$202,580,367
2018	$220,940,755
2019	$234,142,036
2020	$251,099,729
2021	$319,660,364
2022	$301,873,273
2023	$321,623,080



30% U.S. Equity

21% Fixed Income

20% International Developed Equity

14% Private Real Assets

9% Private Equity/ Venture Capital

6% Marketable Alt./ Diversifiers

Endowment Distribution

43% Scholarships

39% Programs

17% Chairs & professorships

1% Charitable gift annuities

As Southern Nevada's image as a mecca for professional sports continues to grow, so too do opportunities for UNLV students.

Supersized with the Super Bowl: 40+ UNLV Interns Head to the Big Game

From left: UNLV Super Bowl interns Jayley Ward, Breanna Adams, and Dayle Marc Aten. (Photo by Josh Hawkins)

Thanks to a growing connection between UNLV and the Las Vegas professional sports scene, more than 40 UNLV students have been able to participate in paid internships with the Las Vegas Super Bowl Host Committee.

Through the program, interns receive direct access and exposure to the world of large-scale event production with opportunities for hands-on experience in operations, community relations, marketing, digital design, and more. But for many, the internship is about more than building their resumes: It's about making connections with colleagues and industry professionals who can help them long after they cross the stage at graduation.

The Sports Innovation Internship Program is made possible by a $400,000 combined gift from the Las Vegas Super Bowl Host Committee, NFL Foundation, and United Way of Southern Nevada.

WATCH VIDEO

Scan the QR code to hear what these UNLV students have taken away from this resume-building opportunity.

Coby Carner
Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management Graduate Program, College of Education

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I really think that the host committee – being out in the field, kind of rubbing elbows with, you know, people that are pretty prominent in the sports industry here, whether I know it or not, is going to really help me in the future."

Alyssa Brown
Finance, Lee Business School

"I was in charge of budgeting sheets, working on presentations, and maps for the event in February, and I attended executive meetings. I didn't think I was ready or that I would get it. Our internship was amazing. As long as you're trying your best, I don't think you can fail."

Ingrid Pauline V de Oca
Graphic Design, UNLV College of Fine Arts

"There's no real way of knowing if you want to do something unless you just kind of put yourself headfirst in a situation and not be afraid to make mistakes and fail because that's the best way of learning."

Dayle Marc Aten
Kinesiology, College of Integrated Health Sciences

"It just opens the door for the sports world in general. My background was understanding [how] an athlete performs. This internship opens my eyes to how the sports teams are run [and] the business end of planning a championship event."

Raiders Support Rebels

The UNLV Athletic Program received a $1 million donation from the Las Vegas Raiders in a continued show of support for the university's football program. The team room of the Fertitta Football Complex was renamed the Al Davis Team Room in honor of Raiders owner Mark Davis' father, further solidifying the partnership between the NFL franchise and Rebel athletics.

The donation kicks off the start of the UNLV Athletics' first comprehensive capital campaign: "Rebel Up." With a fundraising goal of $150 million, the campaign is designed to enhance many areas within UNLV Athletics, including the student-athlete experience, provide funding for new facilities, elevate current facilities, and build a stronger endowment program.

"UNLV was one of the first places that I visited when we were thinking about coming to Las Vegas," Mark Davis said. "We are now roommates over at Allegiant Stadium — one of the most magnificent stadiums in the world. When the Fertittas built this facility, we wanted to be part of it as well."

From left: Rebel Head Coach Barry Odom, Director of Athletics Erick Harper, Raiders owner Mark Davis, Raiders President Sandra Douglass Morgan and UNLV President Keith Whitfield unveil the team room's new name.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Rebel Up Campaign.

VIEW SITE

UNLV

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Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-1006
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702.895.3641

Photo by UNLV PHOTO