2013-14 NSHE FINANCIAL AID REPORT

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2015

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2013-14 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 at an excellent level of quality consistent with the State's resources. The NSHE Board of Regents and its eight institutions strive to ensure that no student is denied a college education due to an inability to afford the cost of attendance. Yet, Nevada is last in the nation in terms of college affordability with respect to median family income for students attending two year institutions (IPEDS, NCES, 2011-12). 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.

Executive Summary

In 2013-14 total aid disbursed to NSHE students reached its highest level ever at $574.7 million. This represents a 23.2 percent increase from 2009-10 levels and a 6.3 percent increase from 2012-13. Once again, NSC, at 110.2 percent, realized the greatest five-year increase in total aid disbursed. CSN experienced the greatest one-year increase, at 32.0 percent. Just as in past years, in 2013-14 loans comprised the largest proportion (49.7 percent) of aid disbursed at NSHE institutions, while grants once again saw the greatest five-year increase (41.8 percent). Breaking down the increase in grants between 2012-13 and 2013-14, primary factors included a 4.4 percent increase in Pell Grants ($5.1 million) and a 21.2 percent increase in undergraduate state funded Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA, $1.5 million). At the same time, the full amount of these increases was offset mainly by substantial decreases in fees-generated RHEOA (graduate and undergraduate) and GEAR UP. Taken together, these and other smaller changes resulted in the percentage of need-based aid from all sources rebounding slightly. In 2012-13 need-based aid from all sources comprised 43.3 percent of aid awarded to NSHE students while in 2013-14 that increased to 44 percent.

Of growing importance to NSHE students over the last several years, the RHEOA program comprised a greater percentage of Nevada state financial assistance to students than the merit-based Millennium scholarship program, 47.3 percent versus 29.3 percent. In April 2010 the Board of Regents approved a policy mandating a goal for increased allocations to student financial assistance (*Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 1.4). 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 2013-14, grants from federal sources constituted 77 percent of dollars disbursed to NSHE students, which continued to be considerably higher than the national average, at 40 percent (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2014*). Fortunately, this trend will likely change in the near future as for the first time in Nevada, the 2015 Legislature created a state-supported financial aid program called the Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) program with the approval of 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 NSHE. This unique program is based 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, federal government, family, and the student). Eligible Students began receiving grants under the SSOG Program in Fall 2015. Additional information on the program is included later in this report.

As mentioned previously, loans again made up the largest portion (49.7 percent) of financial aid to NSHE students in 2013-14. 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. In fact, over the last few years there has been a great deal of media coverage of student loan debt and the impact it is having on our national economy. Loans are particularly burdensome for those students who do not graduate and therefore carry additional debt without a higher income. Although the total loan disbursements for NSHE students in 2012-13 saw a slight decrease (0.1 percent) from the prior year, this number rebounded and increased by 8.6 percent between 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Given the economic difficulties Nevada experienced over the last several years—recession, high unemployment, and budget cuts—it is no surprise that a majority of NSHE students continued to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); in 2013-14, 58.2 percent of enrolled NSHE students filed a FAFSA (down from 61.7 percent in 2012-13). However, it is important to note that 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. For many others, there simply are not enough funds to award all qualified applicants, let alone fully cover documented need.

Methodology

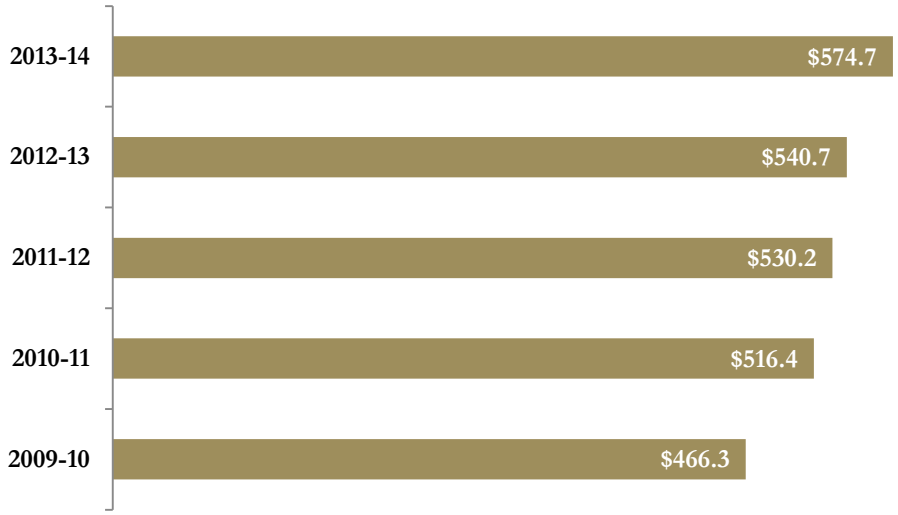
The *2013-14 Financial Aid Report* includes information on the amount of financial assistance provided to students attending institutions within NSHE. The data in this report are provided by the financial aid directors at each NSHE institution. Each fall, institutions submit a detailed expenditure report 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 students continued to increase during 2013-14 (Figure 1). The increase from 2012-13 was 6.3 percent, while the five-year increase was 23.2 percent. Looking at the last several financial aid reports, the five-year rate of increase continued to drop off considerably.

Figure 1

NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed (in millions)*



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

The four-year institutions and CSN experienced an overall increase in total aid disbursed between 2012-13 and 2013-14. CSN experienced the greatest one-year increase and NSC the greatest five-year increase, 32.0 percent and 110.2 percent respectively (Table 1). The decreases at the three community colleges can be explained by a reduction in Pell Grant, federal loans, enrollment or all three. In an effort to combat loan default, campuses have put in place proactive procedures to encourage educated, conservative borrowing by students.

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

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	1-Year Change	5-Year Change
UNLV	$218.5	$237.1	$231.0	$237.3	$240.4	1.3%	10.0%
UNR	$118.4	$131.1	$143.3	$156.7	$166.1	6.0%	40.3%
NSC	$9.6	$14.5	$18.1	$19.6	$20.2	3.1%	110.2%
CSN	$72.8	$76.1	$78.8	$74.9	$98.9	32.0%	35.9%
GBC	$6.0	$6.5	$7.6	$6.8	$6.4	-5.4%	6.0%
TMCC	$29.6	$36.8	$35.2	$30.0	$27.8	-7.4%	-6.2%
WNC	$11.4	$14.4	$16.2	$15.5	$14.9	-3.6%	31.1%
Total	**$466.3**	**$516.4**	**$530.2**	**$540.7**	**$574.7**	**6.3%**	**23.2%**

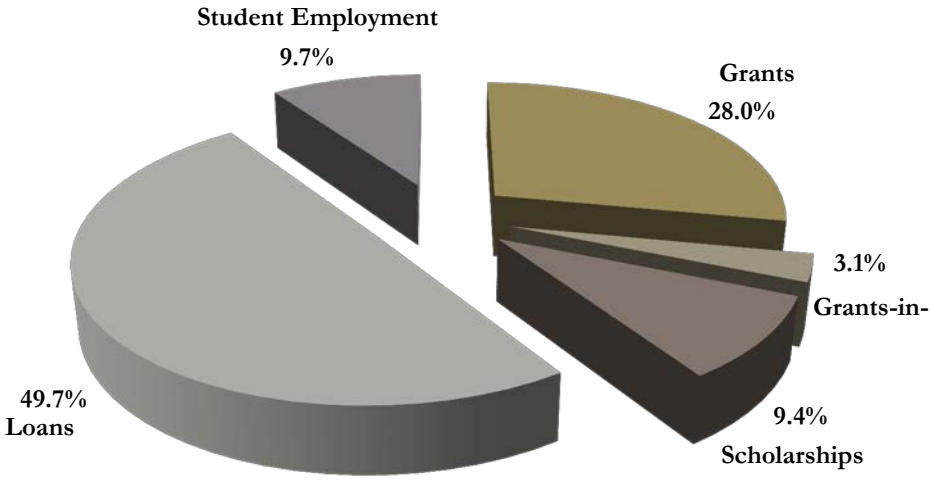
Note: Percent calculations are based on actual and not rounded figures, and therefore may differ if using the rounded figure only.

NSHE Financial Aid by Category

In 2013-14 the distribution of total aid by category (Figure 2) presented a picture similar to prior years. In comparison, for 2012-13 loans comprised 48.6 percent of total; student employment 9.9 percent; grants 28.9 percent; grants-in-aid 2.8 percent; and scholarships 9.8 percent.

Figure 2

NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Category 2013-14 (percent distribution)



As in the prior year, in 2013-14 the greatest increase from five years prior was in the grants category, at 41.8 percent (Table 2). All categories showed an increase over the prior year. While scholarships continue to increase slightly, this category has not yet returned to the amounts disbursed in prior years.

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

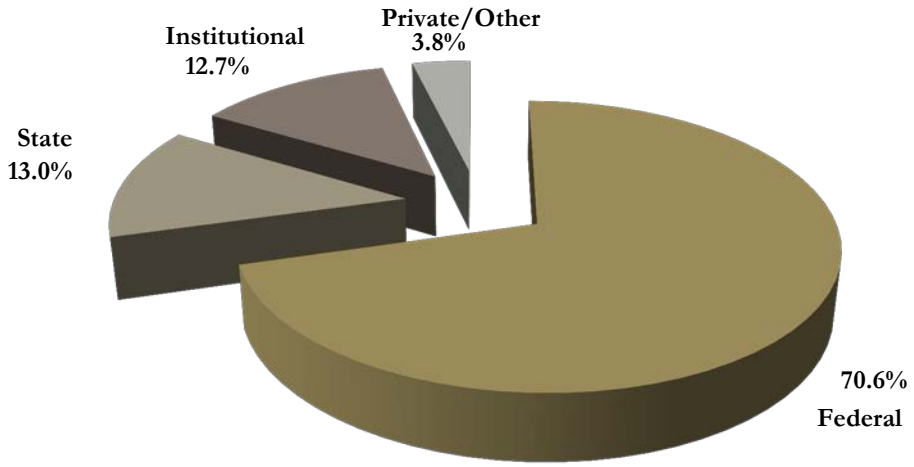
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Grants	113.6	146.8	153.4	156.1	161.1	3.2%	41.8%
Grants-in-Aid	14.0	13.5	13.4	15.4	17.9	16.9%	28.6%
Scholarships	59.4	56.0	51.6	52.9	54.3	2.6%	-8.6%
Loans	229.6	250.6	263.1	262.9	285.5	8.6%	24.3%
Student Employment	49.7	49.5	48.7	53.4	55.9	4.6%	12.4%
Total	**$466.3**	**$516.4**	**$530.2**	**$540.7**	**$574.7**	**6.3%**	**23.2%**

NSHE Financial Aid by Source

The distribution of total aid by source in 2013-14 (Figure 3) closely resembled the distribution in the prior two years. In 2012-13, federal sources comprised 70.2 percent of all aid; state, 12.8 percent; institutional, 12.9 percent; and private/other, 4.2 percent.

Figure 3

NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Source
2013-14 (percent distribution)



When considering NSHE total aid disbursed by source in 2013-14, the greatest five-year percentage increase came from institutional sources, while the greatest one-year percentage increase came from state sources (Table 3). In comparison, in 2012-13, the greatest five-year percentage increase came from federal sources (61.0 percent).

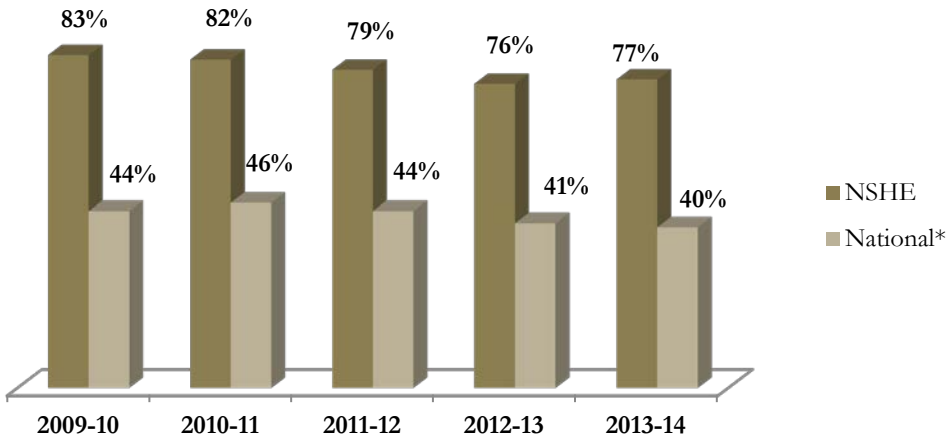
Table 3 – NSHE Total Financial Aid Disbursed by Source
(in millions)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Federal	328.3	373.8	386.1	379.6	405.6	6.8%	23.5%
State	64.3	65.2	64.8	69.0	74.6	8.1%	16.1%
Institutional	51.6	54.6	59.1	69.6	72.8	4.5%	41.1%
Private/Other	22.1	22.9	20.2	22.5	21.7	-3.4%	-1.7%
Total	**$466.3**	**$516.4**	**$530.2**	**$540.7**	**$574.7**	**6.3%**	**23.2%**

Despite the efforts by NSHE to direct a greater portion of student fee revenue to student financial assistance, a majority of grant aid continued to come from federal sources (Figure 4). The reliance of NSHE students on federal grant aid has been the result of the absence of a state-funded need-based financial aid program. However, with the creation of the Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) Program by the 2015 Legislature, these numbers are expected to change in the future.

Figure 4

Percent Grant Aid from Federal Sources

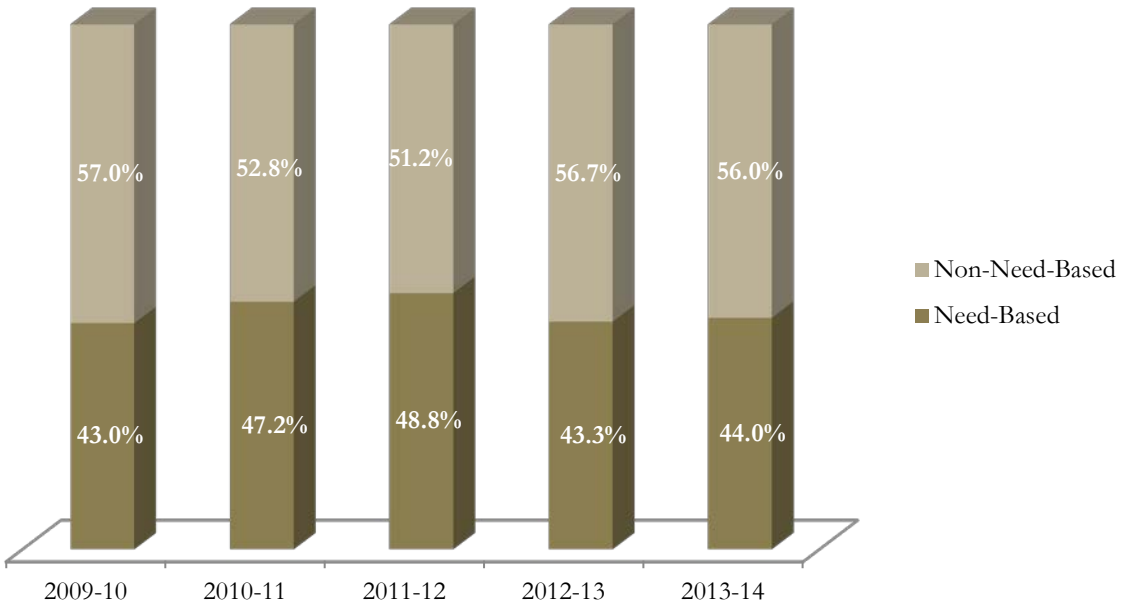


* College *Board Trends in Student Aid, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.*

NSHE Financial Aid by Type

After three annual increases in the percentage of need-based aid versus non need-based aid disbursed to NSHE students (between 2008-09 and 2011-12), this percentage decreased in 2012-13. However, the percentage rebounded slightly in 2013-14 (Figure 5). Breaking down the categories, need-based grants, loans, scholarships and grants-in-aid all saw an increase over the prior year. Looking at the five-year picture, need-based grants-in-aid continued to decrease, similar to what was seen in 2012-13, despite a relatively slight increase in 2013-14. Need-based employment also decreased over the past 5 years and experienced the greatest one-year decrease. (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 2013-14 accounted for nearly $33.7 billion dollars in aid to students nationwide (up from $32.7 billion in 2012-13). When considered in terms of 2013 dollars, nationally total Pell Grant expenditures increased from $16.1 billion in 2003-04 to a high of $38.2 billion in 2010-11, but declined to an estimated $33.7 billion by 2013-14 (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2014*).

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). Over the past five years, NSHE Pell Grant disbursements increased by 34.2 percent and recipients increased by 41.1 percent. In general terms, the five-year trend can be explained by the Nevada economy paired with a few years of expansion of Pell Grant eligibility (for details, see the *2010-11 Financial Aid Report*).

Figure 6

NSHE Total Pell Grant Disbursements (in millions)

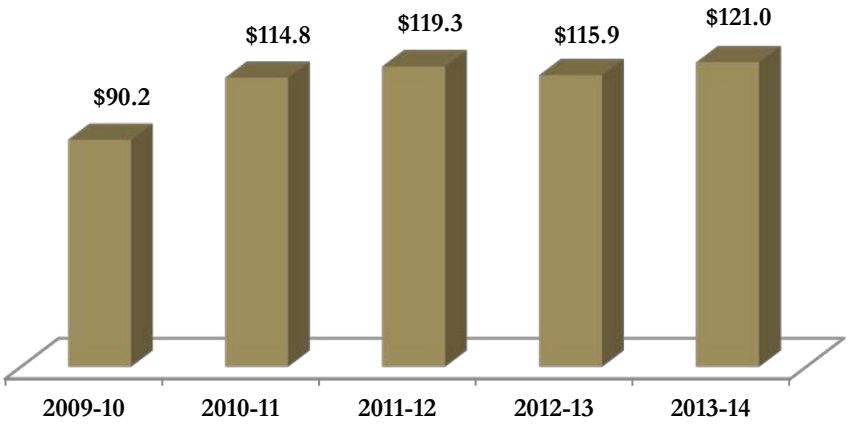
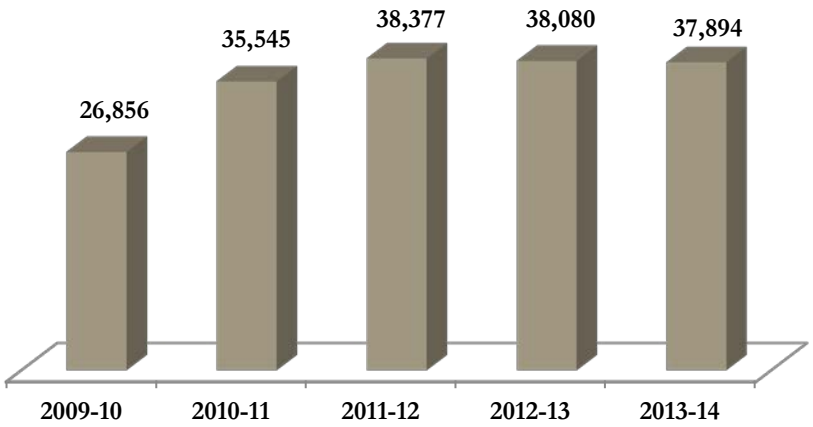


Figure 7

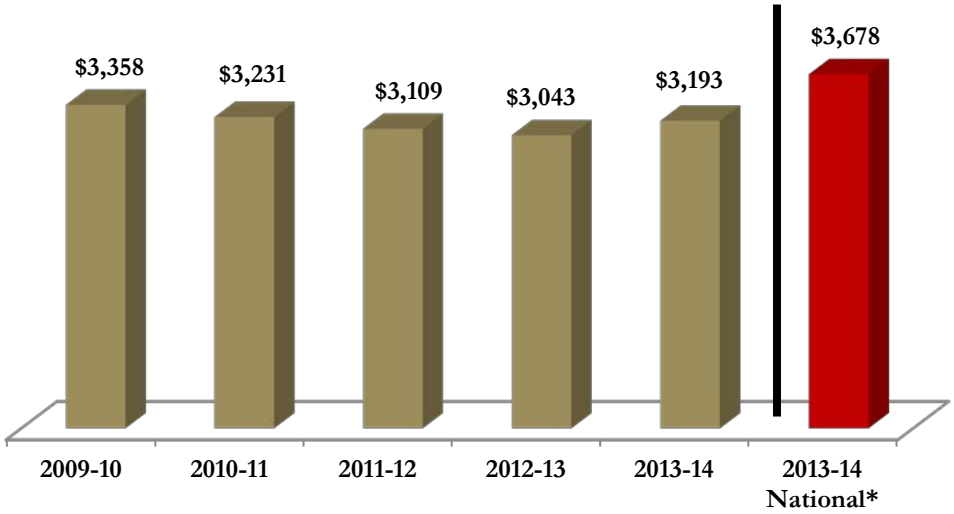
NSHE Total Pell Grant Recipients



Often the Pell Grant is discussed in terms of the maximum award, although the average student award is lower both among NSHE students and nationally (Figure 8). In 2013-14, the maximum Pell Grant increased to $5,645 after remaining flat the prior four years at $5,550 annually. 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. It is also important to recognize that even students with a zero EFC have no Pell dollars available to them in the summer if they receive a full time award in both fall and spring. Students who have an EFC greater than 0 may still qualify for Pell, but at a reduced rate even if they attend full-time.

Figure 8

NSHE Average Annual Pell Grant Disbursements (by Student)



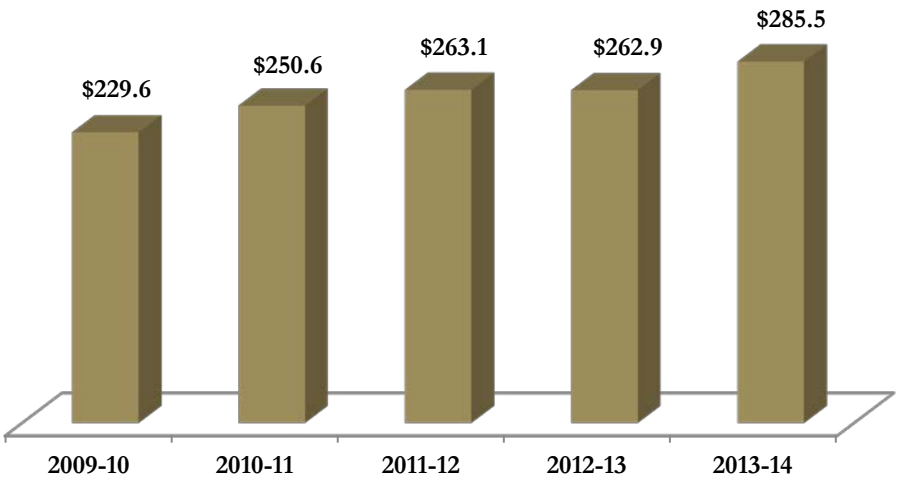
*College Boad, *Trends in Student Aid 2014. Maximum award for 2013-14 was $5,645.*

NSHE Student Loans

For NSHE students, 2013-14 total loan disbursements from all sources increased by 8.6 percent after remaining flat the prior year, while nationally the same figure continued to decrease from a peak of $122.1 billion in 2010-11 to $106 billion in 2013-14 (College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2014*).

Figure 9

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



Five of the seven NSHE institutions make available to students long- and/or short-term loans that are institutionally-funded. In accordance with Board of Regents policy (*Handbook,* Title 4, Chapter 10, Section 23), institutions must report annually on such loans. Table 4, below, meets that reporting mandate and provides information regarding NSHE loan disbursements in 2013-14.

Table 4 – NSHE Total Long and Short Term Institutional Loans 2013-14

	Total Outstanding June 30, 2013	Total Outstanding June 30, 2014	Total Awarded	Total Repayments	Total Written Off*	% Written Off
UNLV	$3,958,433	$3,835,286	$665,740	$460,581	$82,012	2.1%
UNR	$8,133,288	$8,372,329	$1,535,685	$1,251,104	$45,540	0.5%
GBC	$4,851	$4,601	$500	$750	$0	0.0%
TMCC	$226,765	$180,398	$10,200	$40,372	$16,195	9.0%
WNC	$37	$37	$0	$0	$0	0.0%
Total	**$12,323,374**	**$12,392,651**	**$2,212,125**	**$1,752,807**	**$143,747**	**1.2%**

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

Nevada Student Financial Assistance Programs

There are four System-wide programs that provide financial assistance to NSHE students: Regents Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA), Nevada Grants-in-Aid (GIA), Regents Service Program (RSP), and the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship (GGMS, Table 5). RHEOA, commonly referred to as Student Access Aid, has been the largest of the Nevada programs since 2010-11.

Table 5 – Nevada Program Disbursements
2013-14 (dollars in millions)

	Students	% Total	Dollars	% Total
Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award*	20,102	46.2%	$38.5	47.3%
Nevada Grants-in-Aid	4,470	10.3%	$17.9	22.1%
Regents' Service Program	367	0.8%	$1.0	1.3%
Millennium Scholarship	18,585	42.7%	$23.9	29.3%
Total	**43,524**	**100%**	**$81.4**	**100%**

*Note: of total RHEOA awards, 72.5% of dollars were fee-generated, as compared to 75.4% in 2012-13.

NSHE Regents Higher Education Opportunity Award

As in prior years, the majority of Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) disbursements made to students in 2013-14 were in the form of grants, although some campuses award RHEOA-funded scholarships and work study (Table 6). According to Board policy, at least 80 percent of RHEOA disbursements to undergraduates must be need-based, and at least 50 percent of RHEOA disbursements to graduate students must be need-based. See Appendix B for details on how each NSHE institution awards RHEOA funds.

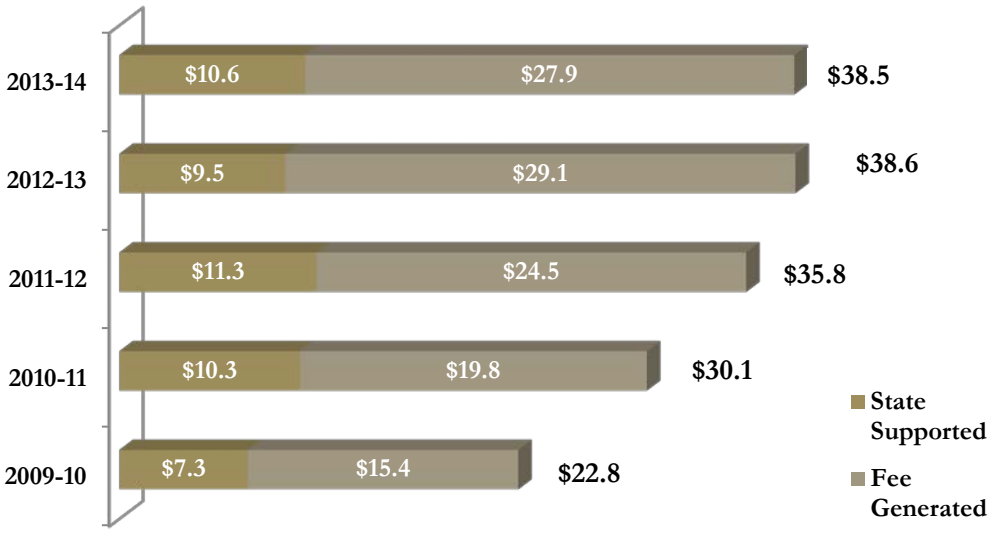
Table 6 – NSHE Total Regents Higher Education Opportunity Award Disbursements 2013-14

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC	NSHE
Grants	$13,437,231	$11,032,689	$795,803	$5,116,263	$358,229	$1,085,107	$505,841	$32,331,162
Scholarships	$2,479,963	$1,291,770	$164,000	$168,486	$35,785	$0	$0	$4,140,005
Work Study	$245,256	$328,070	$639,817	$266,003	$15,506	$374,334	$153,629	$2,022,615
Total	**$16,162,450**	**$12,652,529**	**$1,599,620**	**$5,550,752**	**$409,520**	**$1,459,441**	**$659,470**	**$38,493,782**

Note: of total RHEOA awards, 72.5% of dollars were fee-generated, as compared to 75.4% in 2012-13.

Regents' Higher Education Opportunity Award (RHEOA) disbursements increased by 69.1 percent over the last five-year period from $22.8 million in 2009-10 to $38.5 million in 2013-14 (Figure 10). Compared to the prior year, disbursements were flat in this program. RHEOA dollars come from two sources: state support and a percentage of registration fees, with the majority coming from registration fees. In 2013-14, the proportion of fee-generated aid to state-supported aid in the RHEOA program shifted, with 72.5 percent coming from registration fees and 27.5 percent coming from the state supported budget, while in 2012-13 the breakdown was 75.4 percent from registration fees and 24.6 percent state supported.

Figure 10 **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.

Table 7 – NSHE Total Regents' Service Program Disbursements, 2013-14

	Students	Disbursements
UNLV	67	$286,491
UNR	53	$179,948
NSC	0	$0
CSN	185	$394,590
GBC	16	$29,759
TMCC	36	$107,362
WNC	10	$47,757
Total	**367**	**$1,045,907**

Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship

The Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship program has been adjusted in recent years through increasingly rigorous initial and continuing eligibility requirements in an effort to maintain the longevity of the Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund. These requirements, along with the declining value of the scholarship in the face of registration fee increases, have resulted over time in a reduced percentage of students who activate their scholarships and are able to maintain eligibility. 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 2013 will continue to increase until May 2019.

Table 8 – Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Data
Selected Years, 2000-2013

	Class of					
	2000	**2006**	**2008**	**2010**	**2012**	**2013**
High School GPA Requirement	3.0	3.1	3.25	3.25*	3.25*	3.25*
NV Public High School Graduates	12,953	16,367	18,715	20,901	21,833	23,013
MS Eligible Graduates	7,359	8,744	8,790	9,124	9,754	10,534
% Eligible	56.8%	53.4%	47.0%	43.7%	44.7%	45.8%
Activated Scholarships**	5,657	6,246	6,154	6,047	6,049	5,828
% Eligible who Activated	76.9%	71.4%	70.0%	66.3%	62.0%	55.3%

*GPA Requirements plus completion of the Millennium Core Curriculum.

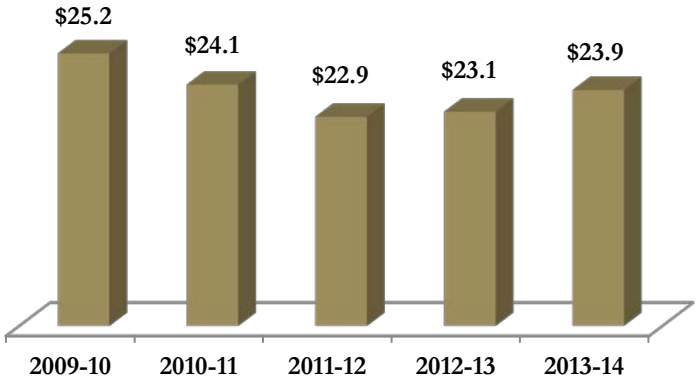
**Students may activate their scholarship at any time within the 6-year eligibility window.

Source: NV State Treasurer's Office as of 12/12/2014; Nevada Department of Education (Nevada public high school graduates include standard and advanced diplomas).

After remaining relatively static for four years, total Millennium disbursements dropped by 9.1 percent between 2009-10 and 2011-12. Since that time, disbursements have increased by 4.4 percent between 2011-12 and 2013-14. In 2015 the Nevada Legislature approved a bill increasing the maximum funding level students at all institutions can receive per semester from 12 credits to 15. Likewise, the minimum funding level at the community colleges was increased from 6 credits per semester to 9. (See Senate Bill 128, Chapter 373, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*.) Each of these measures is critical in supporting NSHE student success initiatives such as 15-to-Finish.

Figure 11

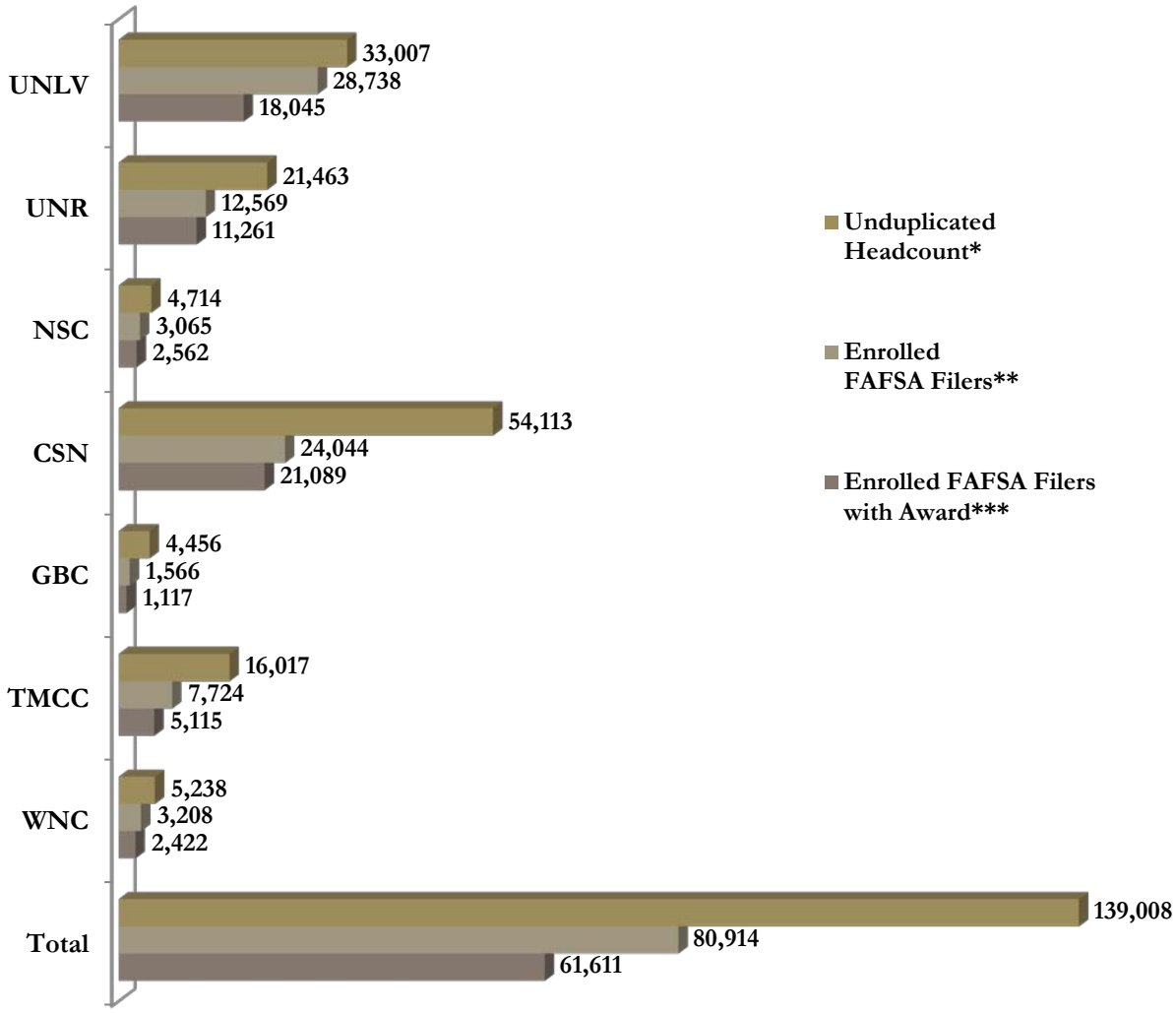
Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship
Total NSHE Disbursements (in millions)



NSHE Financial Aid Applicants and Recipients

Figure 12 shows the number of enrolled FAFSA filers (financial aid applicants) as compared to the IPEDS unduplicated institutional headcount and to the number of enrolled FAFSA filers who received at least one financial aid award. In 2013-14 the percentage of enrolled students who completed the FAFSA dropped from 61.7 percent in 2012-13 to 58.2 percent in 2013-14. Conversely, the percentage of enrolled FAFSA filers who received a financial aid award increased from 67.9 percent in 2012-13 to 76.1 percent in 2013-14.

Figure 12 **Enrolled Students, FAFSA Filers and Awards 2013-14**



*Annual unduplicated headcount figures are as reported by each institution to IPEDS and do not correspond to the official headcount figures reported that are for a single semester and are unduplicated across the System.
**FAFSA filers who were enrolled at least one term. A single student may be counted by more than one institution.
***FAFSA Filers who were enrolled at least one term and received at least one award . Not all financial aid requires the FAFSA.

NSHE Financial Aid Recipient Race & Ethnicity

Table 9 provides the percent distribution of financial aid recipients in the various racial/ethnic categories, by institution. In 2013-14, as in prior years, CSN awarded the highest percentage of Black, Hispanic and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students, while UNLV awarded the highest percentage of Asian students, and GBC awarded the highest percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native students.

Table 9 – NSHE Financial Aid Recipients by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution 2013-14 (percent distribution)

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC
American Indian or Alaska Native	4.2%	0.9%	0.6%	0.7%	5.8%	1.7%	4.0%
Asian	13.6%	7.7%	8.6%	7.8%	0.9%	4.9%	1.5%
Black, non-Hispanic	10.4%	4.8%	16.5%	20.7%	3.2%	4.1%	1.9%
Hispanic	21.8%	17.8%	23.4%	26.7%	14.2%	24.1%	16.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1.6%	0.6%	1.6%	2.0%	0.6%	0.2%	0.6%
Two or More Races	8.4%	6.4%	5.5%	5.7%	2.3%	3.9%	3.6%
White, non-Hispanic	40.1%	61.9%	43.7%	36.4%	72.9%	61.2%	71.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Excludes Non-Resident Alien and Unknown/Nonreported

Table 10 provides data on the percent distribution of financial aid disbursements in 2013-14 to students in the various racial/ethnic categories, by institution. This distribution is similar to those above for percentage of recipients.

Table 10 – NSHE Financial Aid Disbursements by Race/Ethnicity* and Institution 2013-14 (percent distribution)

	UNLV	UNR	NSC	CSN	GBC	TMCC	WNC
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%	0.8%	5.8%	2.2%	4.2%
Asian	13.5%	8.1%	8.6%	7.2%	0.8%	4.7%	1.4%
Black, non-Hispanic	11.7%	5.6%	18.4%	22.7%	4.0%	4.8%	2.2%
Hispanic	15.6%	16.5%	21.0%	24.0%	13.0%	20.9%	14.0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1.7%	0.6%	1.7%	2.0%	0.7%	0.2%	0.5%
Two or More Races	8.3%	6.0%	5.5%	5.6%	2.6%	3.7%	3.5%
White, non-Hispanic	48.7%	62.2%	44.2%	37.7%	73.1%	63.6%	74.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Excludes Non-Resident Alien and Unknown/Nonreported

NSHE 2008 Student Cohort of Financial Aid Recipients

The data provided in Tables 11 to 13 are based on a 2008 cohort of students that is made up of all first-time NSHE students during Fall 2008, regardless of enrollment level. The financial aid amounts reported include all aid disbursed to students in the cohort during all terms of enrollment over a six-year time period between Fall 2008 and Summer 2014. Each student is assigned to one of three groups: 1) graduated as of Summer 2014; 2) still enrolled as of Spring 2015, or 3) not graduated as of Summer 2014 and no longer enrolled as of Spring 2015.

In considering the investment in students through financial aid, it is important to understand that institutions do not control the eligibility criteria for the majority of financial aid that is disbursed. In other words, the institutions neither dictate general eligibility requirements nor credit loads for the disbursement of federal financial aid, long-term loans or the Millennium Scholarship. However, this analysis affords institutions the opportunity to review the financial aid levers over which they do have control—namely state-supported and fee-generated aid—and consider such programs in the context of student success.

Table 11 - NSHE Financial Aid Dollars Disbursed
Fall 2008 through Summer 2014
New Students in Fall 2008. ***Graduated as of Summer 2014.***
Total aid received during all terms of enrollment.

Institution	# Students	Federal (excluding loans)*	Millennium Scholarship	State Supported Access**	Fee Generated Access**	Other Aid	Long-term Loans	Total (excluding loans)	Total
UNLV	1,176	$6,343,606	$6,024,320	$1,165,156	$2,251,261	$3,838,230	$19,328,393	$19,622,573	$38,950,966
UNR	1,137	$3,078,293	$4,916,238	$381,467	$635,700	$5,297,573	$10,157,434	$14,309,272	$24,466,706
NSC	22	$127,074	$50,880	$8,000	$60,836	$4,858	$114,440	$251,648	$366,088
CSN	418	$1,725,039	$353,378	$216,037	$173,741	$79,317	$812,490	$2,547,512	$3,360,003
GBC	56	$168,483	$45,340	$22,660	$6,356	$113,533	$129,124	$356,372	$485,496
TMCC	247	$1,063,289	$204,544	$39,380	$59,066	$147,780	$655,212	$1,514,059	$2,169,271
WNC	114	$437,838	$131,716	$73,930	$11,825	$138,963	$388,329	$794,271	$1,182,600
NSHE	**3,170**	**$12,943,623**	**$11,726,416**	**$1,906,630**	**$3,198,784**	**$9,620,254**	**$31,585,423**	**$39,395,707**	**$70,981,129**

Table 12 - NSHE Financial Aid Dollars Disbursed
Fall 2008 through Summer 2014
New Students in Fall 2008. *Still enrolled at ANY INSTITUTION as of Spring 2015.*
Total aid received during all terms of enrollment.

Institution	# Students	Federal (excluding loans)*	Millennium Scholarship	State Supported Access**	Fee Generated Access**	Other Aid	Long-term Loans	Total (excluding loans)	Total
UNLV	410	$2,284,751	$1,273,499	$349,168	$480,993	$342,211	$5,657,314	$4,730,622	$10,387,936
UNR	126	$236,405	$83,440	$24,610	$48,410	$150,864	$769,124	$543,729	$1,312,853
NSC	22	$105,433	$18,240	$500	$20,028	$1,557	$183,706	$145,757	$329,463
CSN	276	$672,640	$81,870	$82,065	$53,433	$10,523	$507,272	$900,530	$1,407,802
GBC	26	$67,676	$1,680	$7,000	$2,200	$9,612	$74,788	$88,167	$162,955
TMCC	128	$326,602	$27,689	$12,575	$10,941	$17,522	$249,603	$395,329	$644,932
WNC	37	$91,415	$7,880	$5,992	$1,525	$9,589	$14,194	$116,401	$130,595
NSHE	**1,025**	**$3,784,921**	**$1,494,298**	**$481,910**	**$617,529**	**$541,877**	**$7,456,001**	**$6,920,535**	**$14,376,536**

Table 13 - NSHE Financial Aid Dollars Disbursed
Fall 2008 through Summer 2014
New Students in Fall 2008. *Did <u>not</u> graduate from ANY INSTITUTION as of Summer 2014 and not enrolled at ANY INSTITUTION as of Spring 2015.*
Total aid received during all terms of enrollment.

Institution	# Students	Federal (excluding loans)*	Millennium Scholarship	State Supported Access**	Fee Generated Access**	Other Aid	Long-term Loans	Total (excluding loans)	Total
UNLV	1,450	$4,373,778	$2,845,317	$790,866	$941,579	$1,800,536	$13,697,280	$10,752,076	$24,449,356
UNR01	634	$557,276	$206,640	$30,440	$64,670	$835,625	$1,785,478	$1,694,651	$3,480,129
NSC01	109	$230,948	$30,360	$250	$49,515	$8,450	$251,190	$319,523	$570,714
CSN01	3,632	$3,812,194	$349,500	$283,947	$230,475	$66,899	$2,626,925	$4,743,016	$7,369,941
GBC01	321	$292,990	$17,060	$27,882	$2,977	$105,703	$198,222	$446,612	$644,833
TMCC1	1,011	$1,475,686	$93,434	$103,896	$47,492	$103,789	$1,298,208	$1,824,296	$3,122,504
WNC01	350	$729,788	$35,524	$63,982	$15,643	$63,335	$375,449	$908,272	$1,283,721
NSHE	**7,507**	**$11,472,660**	**$3,577,835**	**$1,301,263**	**$1,352,351**	**$2,984,336**	**$20,232,752**	**$20,688,445**	**$40,921,198**

Source for all 2008 Student Cohort data: NSHE Institutions, NSHE Data Warehouse.
*Includes Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and Federal Work Study.
**Includes grants, scholarship and work study funded by NSHE Student Access funds, either state-supported or fee-generated (also known as Regents Higher Education Opportunity Award).

Silver State Opportunity Grant Program

Background

The Silver State Opportunity Grant (SSOG) program 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 will be 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 Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). This unique program is modeled 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, federal government, family, and the student).

The 2015 Legislature appropriated funds to support the program under Senate Bill 514 (Chapter 534, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*). The sum of $2.5 million for Fiscal Year 2015-16 and $2.5 million for Fiscal Year 2016-17 were appropriated to NSHE for the purpose of the SSOG Program.

The SSOG Program is designed to ensure eligible low-income students can afford to go to college. Unfortunately, Nevada is last in the nation in terms of college affordability with respect to median family income for students attending two year institutions (IPEDS, NCES 2011-12). The total unmet need for all NSHE institutions in 2012-13 was $434.5 million, based on Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filers who enrolled and completed their financial aid files. This unmet need figure represents the unfunded gap that students must make up on their own to cover the total cost of education. The reality is that many low income students cannot make up that unfunded gap and therefore choose not to pursue a degree or credential.

Students from low-income families are a growing share of K-12 and higher education enrollments in Nevada. Students from the lowest income families have the lowest high school graduation rates, the lowest college continuation rates, and the lowest bachelor's degree attainment rates. Nevada's participation rate for students from low income families was 44th in the nation at 28.6 percent in 2012—well below the national average of 39.4 percent (Postsecondary Education Opportunity, September 2013, *College Participation Rates for Students from Low-Income Families by State, 1993-2012*). The SSOG Program is an aggressive first step to encouraging more low-income students to attend college and earn a degree or credential of value.

Who is Eligible?

Eligible institutions include NSHE community colleges and state college. To be eligible for an SSOG award, a student must:

- Be enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree or certificate;
- Enroll in at least 15 credit hours that apply to the student's chosen program of study;
- Be college ready based on placement or completion of entry-level, college-level mathematics and English;
- Be classified as a resident for tuition purposes;
- Meet institutional Title IV financial aid satisfactory academic progress requirements; and
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of 8500 or less.

To be considered "college-ready" for the purpose of SSOG Program eligibility, a student must be 1) currently or previously enrolled in a 100 or above level mathematics and English course, 2) placed into a college-level course under institutional placement policies for placement into at least Math120 and English 101, or 3) previously successfully completed remedial coursework (evident by a C or better in Math096 and/or English098).

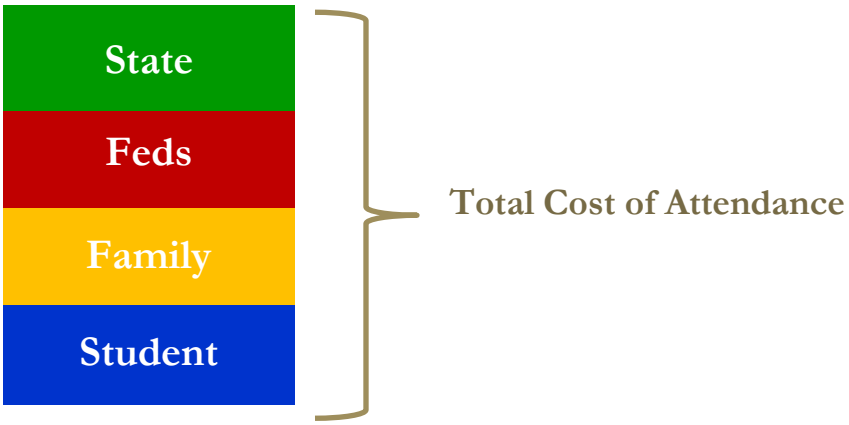
Completion of the FAFSA is a critical step toward receiving an SSOG award. Funds for the SSOG Program are limited and are awarded to the students with the most financial need first. In other words, funds are awarded to eligible students in ascending EFC (Expected Family Contribution) order starting with 0 EFC to 8500 EFC until funds are exhausted. Financial need based on the expected family contribution is determined through completion of the FAFSA.

Students who have previously earned a bachelor's degree are not eligible for the SSOG award.

How is the Award Calculated?

The SSOG program is modeled on a shared responsibility philosophy for awarding grant aid where the award is based on the total cost of attendance (tuition and fees and living expenses) being shared by partners (the state, federal government, family, and the student). The shared responsibility model is based on best practices and described in detail in a report published by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, titled *States in the Driver's Seat: Leveraging State Aid to Align Policies and Promote Access, Success, and Affordability*.

Figure 13



The SSOG award amount is calculated by subtracting from the total cost of attendance, the student contribution, expected family contribution (determined from completion of the FAFSA), and federal awards received (including the Pell grant, the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and the federal TEACH grant). The amount remaining, up to $5,500 annually, is the SSOG award amount.

The total cost of attendance varies by student living circumstance (living off campus, living on campus [GBC only], or living with parent). It is calculated by the institutions based on a federal methodology provided for in 20 U.S.C. §1087ll. For the purpose of the SSOG award calculation, a single cost of attendance based on the average of all eligible institutions is used for each housing category.

Table 14 - 2015-16 Total Cost of Attendance* for the Purpose of the SSOG Program	
Living Off Campus and not with Parent	$18,233
Living with Parent	$12,088
Living on Campus	$15,175

*Based on the average of COA amounts for the eligible institutions

As the principle beneficiary, the student is expected to contribute toward his/her own education costs. The student contribution for 2015-16 is set at $5,500 and is based on the expectation of a reasonable work commitment (15 hours of employment throughout the year less estimated federal income tax). The reasonable work commitment is only used for the purpose of determining the student share under the SSOG calculation, and should in no way be construed to require a student to seek or obtain employment as a condition of eligibility for the SSOG award. The student share may be covered by a number of other sources, including but not limited to: student earnings or savings; private, institutional, state or federal scholarships (including the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship); veterans educational benefits; student loans; and financial assistance from family or friends.

Appendix A

Table 15 - Total Aid Disbursed by Type (Need/Non-need)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*	1-Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Grants NB	$111,708,024	$139,392,188	$148,255,691	$149,495,126	$155,097,252	3.7%	38.8%
Grants NN	$1,881,884	$7,376,701	$5,154,999	$6,621,694	$5,974,270	-9.8%	217.5%
Grants Total	$113,589,908	$146,768,888	$153,410,690	$156,116,820	$161,071,523		
Grants % NB	98.34%	94.97%	96.64%	95.76%	96.29%		
Grants-in-Aid NB	$673,237	$180,107	$158,407	$78,534	$97,015	23.5%	-85.6%
Grants-in-Aid NN	$13,281,737	$13,290,453	$13,263,626	$15,280,646	$17,851,252	16.8%	34.4%
Grants-in-Aid Total	$13,954,974	$13,470,560	$13,422,033	$15,359,180	$17,948,267		
Grants-in-Aid % NB	4.82%	1.34%	1.18%	0.51%	0.54%		
Scholarships NB	$401,675	$1,325,637	$1,513,776	$702,808	$4,702,387	569.1%	1070.7%
Scholarships NN	$58,999,296	$54,682,498	$50,074,249	$52,197,062	$49,580,467	-5.0%	-16.0%
Scholarships Total	$59,400,971	$56,008,135	$51,588,024	$52,899,871	$54,282,854		
Scholarships % NB	0.68%	2.37%	2.93%	1.33%	8.66%		
Loans NB	$83,860,214	$98,229,785	$104,334,693	$79,336,375	$89,686,397	13.0%	6.9%
Loans NN	$145,723,009	$152,393,117	$158,741,329	$183,585,617	$195,776,147	6.6%	34.3%
Loans Total	$229,583,224	$250,622,902	$263,076,022	$262,921,992	$285,462,544		
Loans % NB	36.53%	39.19%	39.66%	30.17%	31.42%		
Employment NB	$4,029,107	$4,358,961	$4,262,357	$4,717,582	$3,548,393	-24.8%	-11.9%
Employment NN	$45,705,721	$45,164,057	$44,404,630	$48,712,091	$52,352,157	7.5%	14.5%
Employment Total	$49,734,829	$49,523,018	$48,666,987	$53,429,673	$55,900,550		
Employment % NB	8.10%	8.80%	8.76%	8.83%	6.35%		
Total Need-Based**	$200.7	$243.5	$258.5	$234.3	$253.1	8.0%	26.1%
NB %	43.0%	47.2%	48.8%	43.3%	44.0%		
Total Non-Need**	$265.6	$272.9	$271.6	$306.4	$321.5	4.9%	21.1%
NN %	57.0%	52.8%	51.2%	56.7%	56.0%		
Grand Total*	$466.3	$516.4	$530.2	$540.7	$574.7	6.3%	23.2%

*Beginning in 2013-14 NSHE reporting methodology changed for reporting need –based aid to include all aid awarded to students with need, regardless of the type of award. For example, a merit-based scholarship awarded to a student with need (based on FAFSA data) counted in 2013-14 as a need-based award, whereas in 2012-13 and prior years it would have been reported as non-need.

** dollars in millions

Key

NB = Need-based

NN =Non-need-based

Appendix B

Regents Higher Education Opportunity Award Methodologies

UNLV

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

UNR

State-Supported

All state access funds were awarded based on need. All need-based funds were awarded first-come first-serve based on cost of attendance, EFC, and remaining need. A portion of the state undergraduate funds are used to meet the required Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) match. $3000 was the maximum fall/spring award for full-time students. The awards were prorated for part-time enrollment.

Fees-Generated

Based on anticipated revenue for the academic year, the undergraduate funds were split 80% need based and 20% merit scholarships. The graduate split was 50% need based and 50% merit. All fees-generated need based funds were awarded as described above. The non-need based funds were used to fund scholarships for both graduate and undergraduate students and work-study for undergraduate students only. The allocation to fund international students is proportional to the international students in the entire student body the prior fall term.

NSC

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

CSN

RHEOA funds were used primarily for need-based awards on a first-come, first-serve basis. Funds were also used to meet state matching requirements in the GEAR UP program as well as federal matching requirements for TRiO grants, FSEOG (Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant) and Federal Work Study.

GBC

Fees-generated RHEOA was awarded through an automated process primarily to students with an EFC greater than 2500 and state-supported RHEOA to students with an EFC greater than 5000. However, students in desperate need of financial assistance who met all other eligibility requirements were awarded on a case-by-case basis, regardless of EFC.

TMCC

RHEOA funds were awarded to students with specific EFC ranges that are determined annually in order to assist TMCC's diverse student population. A commitment is made to provide a percentage of these funds to the student employment program, which supports student retention. On a rare and individual case-by-case basis, students who do not fit normal institutional guidelines may be awarded due to unusual or extenuating circumstances. A small portion of funds were set aside to provide grants to low-income first-generation students in TMCC's summer bridge program. A second small portion was allocated as a match for qualified GEAR UP students. A portion of RHEOA funds were allocated to the TMCC Incentive Grant and Graduation Incentive Grant, both of which provide higher than the standard grant amount, and are awarded to eligible students enrolled full time and on track to graduate. The graduation rate for Graduation Incentive Grant recipients who were in their third and final year was 100 percent. The persistence rate for the TMCC Incentive Grant recipients who were in their second year was 66 percent.

WNC

WNC awarded RHEOA funds based on lowest EFC and highest need. Additionally, RHEOA was awarded to students on a first-come first-served basis, with some funding reserved throughout the year to assist students with special financial circumstances.