



NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE  
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED GRADUATE ASSISTANT BENEFITS  
AND LIVING CONDITIONS

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**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Student Alliance represents all 110,000+ students in the Nevada System of Higher Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Student Alliance is comprised of elected representatives from all NSHE institutions whose numerous responsibilities include voicing and lobbying student concerns to their elected officials at local, state, and federal levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Student Alliance representatives assert and affirm the positive research and creative contributions of Graduate Assistants, of which there are over 6,000 in the NSHE system; and

**WHEREAS**, Graduate Assistants benefit all NSHE campuses by providing research, teaching, and professional development opportunities and support for all campus communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Graduate Assistants continue to contribute directly to the Carnegie R1 Classification of both the University of Nevada- Reno and the University of Nevada- Las Vegas through contractual and scholarly work, and

**WHEREAS**, international students are limited by their student visa to a 20-hour assistantship at their respective institution and are unable to generate additional income, and

**WHEREAS**, without the support and training of graduate students at the University of Nevada, Reno, the \$330 Million received in Grants would not be possible without the research carried out by Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs), and

**WHEREAS**, upon graduation, graduate students will be significant contributors to the highly technical Nevada economy in Mining, Water Usage, Tourism, Industrial Manufacturing,

Electrical Infrastructure, Education, Green Energy, New Entrepreneurial Ventures, and emerging markets; contributing to and building the jobs of the future of Nevada, and

**WHEREAS**, graduate students at the University of Nevada, Reno have contributed to the workforce from the investment of the local Reno economy through participation in the \$137M associated with capital for affiliated startups, 300+ companies/agencies/organizations through membership agreements, 39 companies based within University operations, and

**WHEREAS**, graduate students from the University of Nevada, Reno have supported efforts in the Nevada economy by providing workforce to \$8.7M Knowledge Fund Investment which has created \$32.5M in total grants on donations received, founded 14 spin-off companies, helped relocate 20 companies to Nevada, filed 42 patents by companies incubated in NCAR, and helped build the \$136.5M commercialization revenue with affiliated companies within the state of Nevada

**WHEREAS**, the current baseline stipend (\$11,250 at UNLV/ \$16,000 at UNR) for ten months as Graduate Teaching Assistants does not adequately provide funding for the rising cost of living in Nevada and does not constitute a living wage\*, and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Nevada, Reno & University of Nevada, Las Vegas ranks highly among their peers concerning the stipend amount but after factoring in the cost of housing within the State of Nevada fall to bottom 3rd, and

**WHEREAS**, out of the 15% of the graduate student population in NSHE, 67% of graduate students at the University of Nevada, Reno has stated that they struggle to pay rent regularly, while one out of every five students at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas have reported struggling with basic necessities such as food and housing;

**WHEREAS**, Masters students spend 51% and Ph.D. students spend 48.5% of their stipend on housing in the Reno area. Masters students spend an average of \$1,500, and Ph.D. students spend \$1,750 on basic necessities to live in Reno and attend the University of Nevada, Reno – typically not providing any buffer against emergencies in health care and transportation for the two – six years they are here at the University.

**WHEREAS**, The University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas have each worked with their respective Graduate Schools and Graduate Student Governments (GSA & GPSA) to support Graduate Students by seeking an alternative for graduate student housing and fair compensation already available from the currently available state funds, however, additional state funding is required;”

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Nevada Student Alliance, on behalf of the 110,000+ students of NSHE:

**-Be it further resolved that** the NSA urges State Representatives to support NSHE's 2023 - 2025 Biennial Budget Proposal - Item Number 5 for Special Consideration - "GTA Funding - increase stipends, additional GTA positions.

**- Be it further resolved that** the NSA supports graduate assistant stipend increases and cost of living adjustments;

**-Be it further resolved that** the NSA supports and recognizes the collective value of graduate assistant labor and asserts the right for graduate students to seek out equal compensation for their work;

**-Be it further resolved that** the NSA urges the leadership of the Nevada System of Higher Education to seek out alternative sources of funding and support for graduate assistants, including affordable graduate student housing and fair compensation;

**- Be it further resolved that** the NSA urges the leadership of the Nevada System of Higher Education to continue seeking alternative sources of funding and support for graduate assistants, including affordable graduate student housing and fair compensation. Additionally, the NSA urges State leadership to support additional funding for the Nevada System of Higher Education's Graduate Student Programs.

- **Be it further resolved that** the NSA urges Local, City, and State representatives to meet with the University of Nevada, Reno's Graduate Student Association (GSA), and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas's Graduate Professional and Student Association (GPSA) to discuss Graduate Education in the State of Nevada.
- **Be it further resolved that** the NSA urges those candidates running for Local, City, and State representation to meet with the University of Nevada, Reno's Graduate Student Association (GSA), and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas's Graduate Professional and Student Association (GPSA) to discuss Graduate Education in the State of Nevada.
- **Be it further resolved that** the NSA urges Federal Leadership to focus on building new programs to support graduate studies within the State of Nevada which will keep graduates within the state of Nevada.

**- Be it further resolved that** a copy of this resolution be sent to the following, one copy before November 2022 with the contact information for the University of Nevada, Reno, GSA President

– Matthew Hawn ([Mhawn@unr.edu](mailto:Mhawn@unr.edu) & 775-351-5150) - and University of Nevada, Las Vegas, GPSA President – Nicole Thomas ([nicole.thomas1@unlv.edu](mailto:nicole.thomas1@unlv.edu)):

- NSHE Acting Chancellor
- All NSHE Elected Board of Regents
- NSHE Council of Presidents
- Elected Executive Officers for the Nevada Legislature
- Nevada Office of the Governor
- Currently Elected Representatives in Nevada Legislature
- Individuals currently running for elected office to represent constituents in the Nevada Legislature that are registered through the Secretary of State's website as Official Candidates in the State of Nevada for the 2023 -2024 legislative cycle.
- Individuals currently running for elected office in the Executive Office registered through the Secretary of State's website as Official Candidates in the State of Nevada for the 2023 -2024 legislative cycle.
- Individuals running for elected office to sit on the Board of Regents are registered on the Secretary of State's website as Official Candidates in the State of Nevada.
- All individuals elected to Federal Office for the State of Nevada.
- All individuals currently running for Federal Office for the State of Nevada.

- **Be it further resolved that** a copy of this resolution be sent to the following, one copy after the November 2022 Election:

- Nevada Office of the Secretary of State
- Nevada Office of the Governor
- All Elected Executive Officers for the Nevada Legislature
- All Elected Representatives that se
- The Nevada Legislature
- Individuals Elected to Represent the State of Nevada in Federal Office

\* Living Wage for Nevada was calculated using the Living Wage Calculator provided by MIT. A living wage in Nevada constitutes a base salary of \$33,788 before taxes for one adult living with no children.

\*University of Nevada, Reno numbers taken from the University of Nevada, Reno – Research & Innovation Office.

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**ADOPTED** by the Nevada Student Alliance on the 8<sup>th</sup> Day of September 2022.



**ATTEST:**

Dionne Stanfill 09/08/2022

Dionne Stanfill

NSA Chair & University of Nevada, Reno – Associated Students of the University of Nevada,  
Reno - President

John Fenton 09/08/2022

John Fenton

NSA Vice Chair & Truckee Meadows Community College - Student Government Association -  
President

Yvette Machado 09/08/2022

Yvette Machado

NSA Secretary & College of Southern Nevada - Associated Students of the College of Southern  
Nevada - President

Matthew Hawn 8SEP2022

Matthew Hawn

NSA Member & University of Nevada, Reno – Graduate Student Association - President




Nicole Thomas

NSA Member & University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) President

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Issac Hernandez

NSA Member & University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada - President



Zachary Stamp

NSA Member & Great Basin College – Student Government Association (SGA) - President



Tessa Espinosa

NSA Member & Nevada State College – Nevada State Student Alliance (NSSA) - President

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Suzanna Stankute

NSA Member & Western Nevada College – Associated Students of Western Nevada (ASWN) - President