

WNC and the Funding Formula



A Presentation to the Committee on Higher Education Funding, February 12, 2024



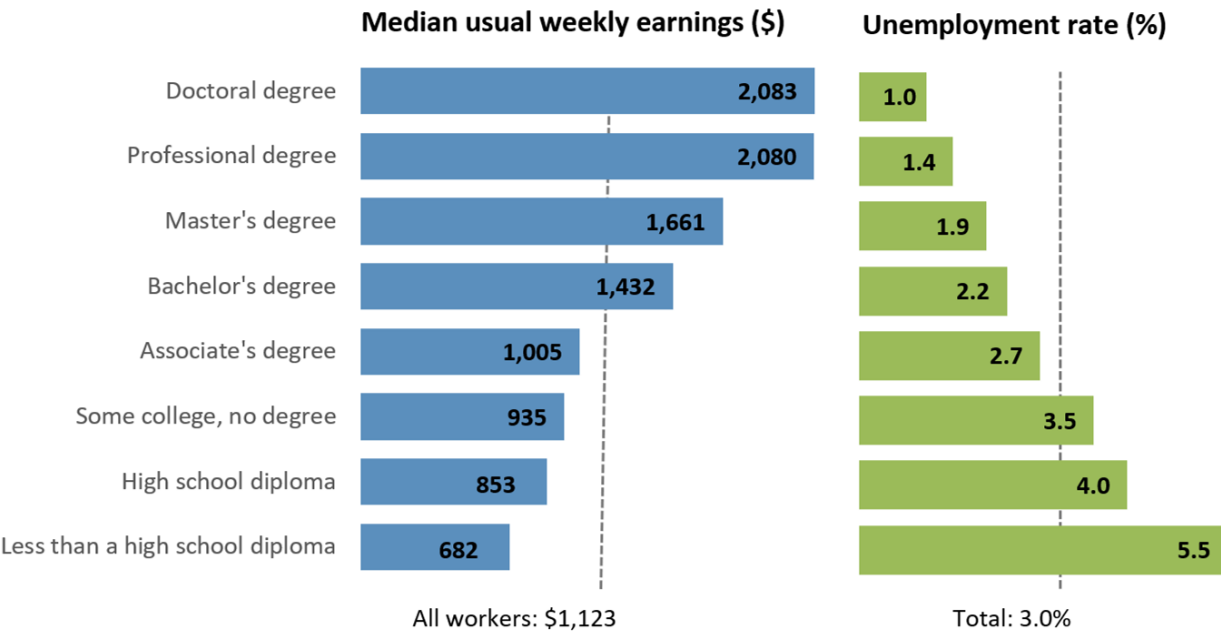
Western Nevada College

Presented by J. Kyle Dalpe, Ph.D., President



Value of Education | Skills Gap | Potential

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2022

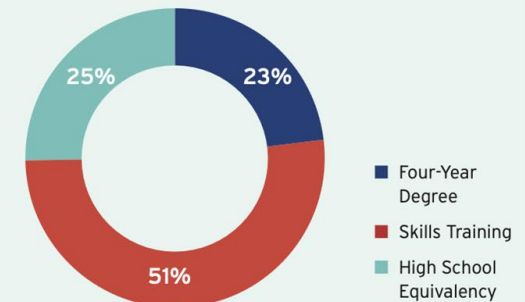


Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm>

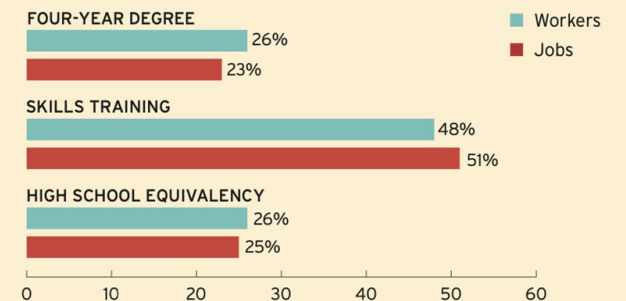
A MAJORITY OF JOBS (51%) REQUIRE SKILLS TRAINING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL, BUT NOT A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE.

NEVADA'S JOBS BY EDUCATION REQUIREMENT, 2018



BUT TOO FEW WORKERS CAN ACCESS THE SKILLS TRAINING AND EDUCATION NEEDED TO FILL IN-DEMAND JOBS.

NEVADA'S JOBS AND WORKERS BY EDUCATION LEVEL, 2018



Source: <https://nationalskillscoalition.org/skills-mismatch/nevada-skills-mismatch/>





Community College Mission Elements

Liberal Arts and Transfer | Developmental Education
Workforce Training | Continuing Education | Community Service

Source: The American Community College (Cohen, Brawer, Kisker, 2014)

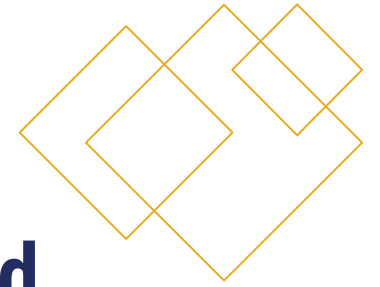
WNC Mission Statement

WNC contributes to solutions for the 21st century by providing **effective educational pathways** for the students and communities of Nevada.

Funding Considerations

No mission specific funding for community colleges
No funding for non-credit offerings
Small institutions lose due to economy of scale

Mission and Budget Priorities



We serve all

- Educational preparedness
- Work/family commitments
- Part time/full time
- Ready to go
- Underprepared
- Stop outs/returning
- Old and young
- Unemployed

We provide

- Open admission
- Small class sizes
- Direct faculty contact
- Day/night/weekend/online
- Support services
- Wrap around services
- Educational sites
- Affordability
- Variety of classes

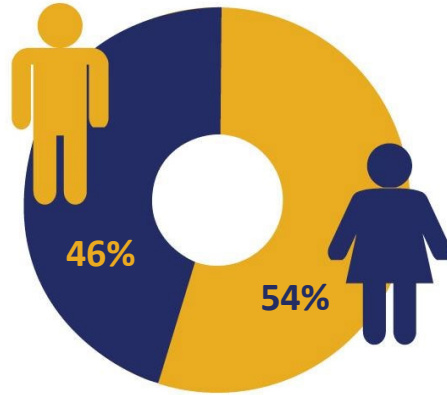
We respond

- Advancement
- Capitalization
- Workforce development
- Demographics
- Food insecurity
- Childcare needs
- Mental health
- More!



Who We Serve

4,377 Total Students in the Fall of 2023

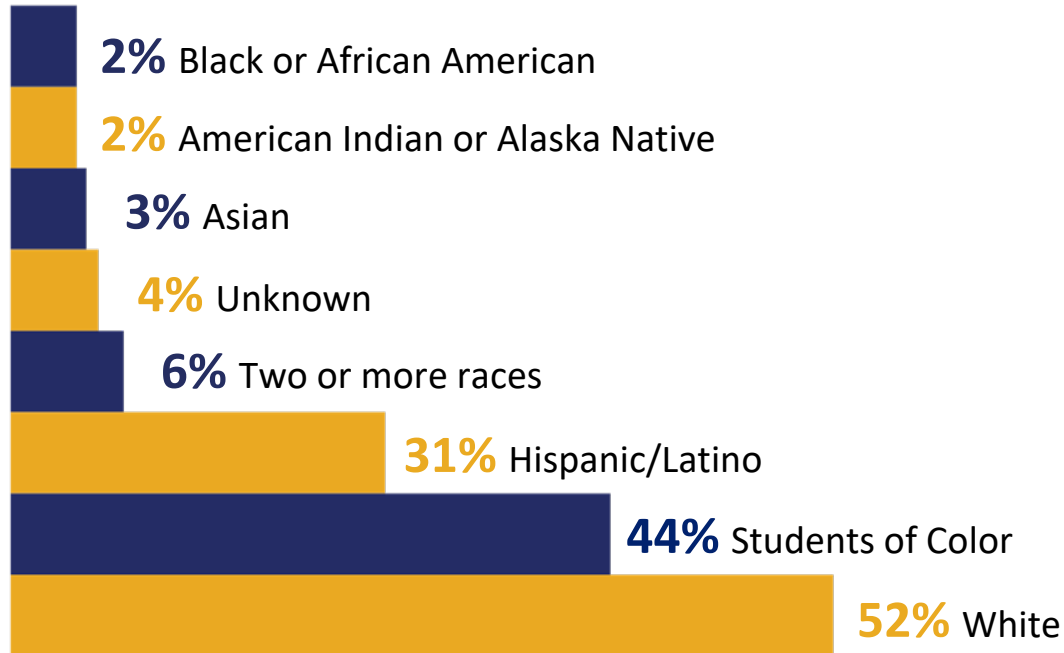


39% Under 18 **34%** 18-24 27% 25+

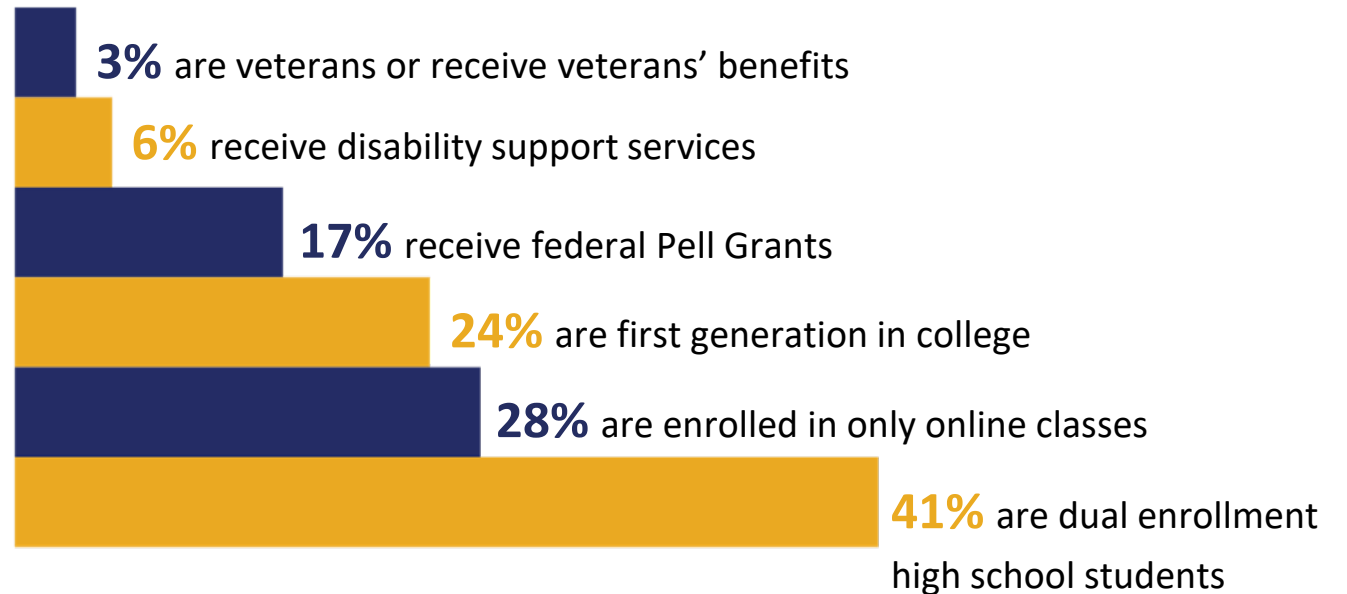
AVERAGE AGE OF STUDENTS 23.1 YEARS OLD

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE **18** STUDENTS

ETHNICITY



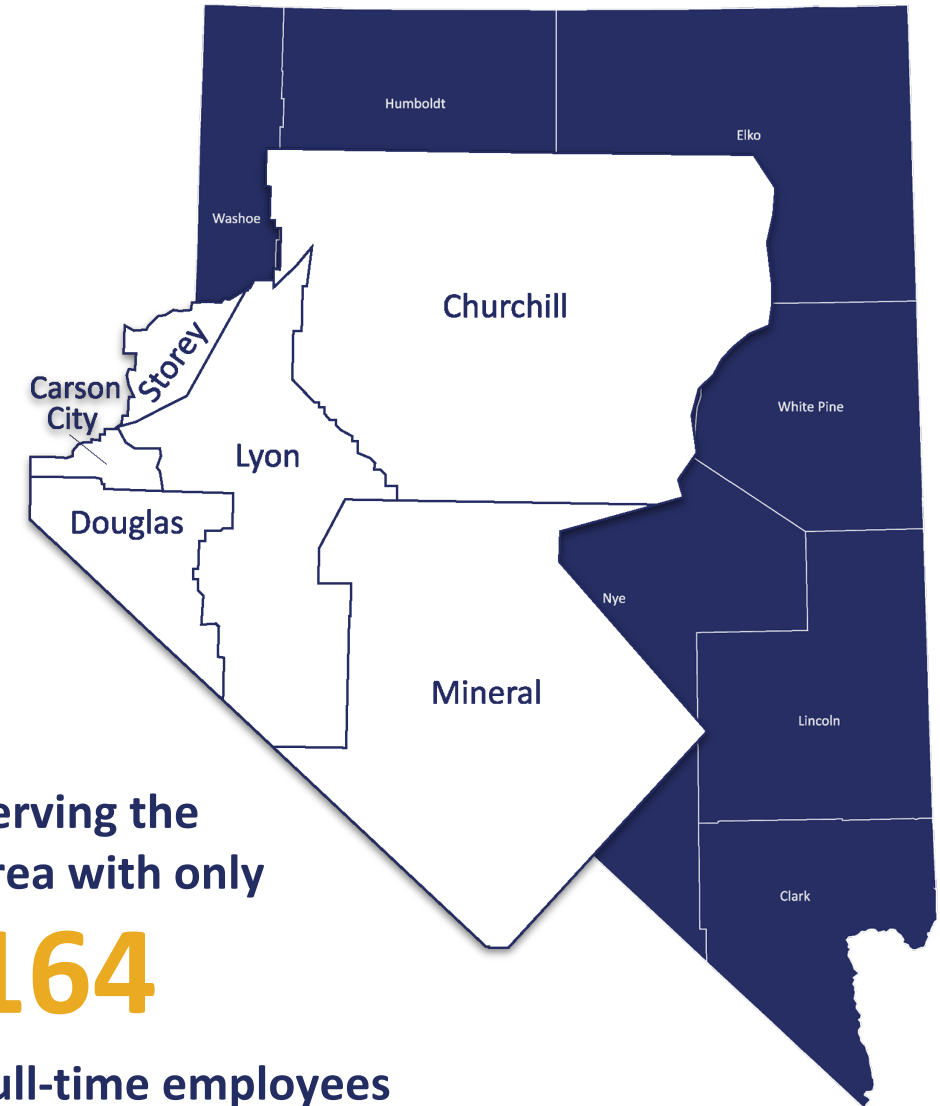
POPULATIONS SERVED



Mission and Budget Priorities

Our immediate service area includes:

- Six counties spanning more than 12,000 square miles
- Three campuses with more than 15 buildings
- Eight K12 districts, including 15 high schools
- Five charter schools
- One private K12
- More than 7 indigenous colonies and communities
- A prison education program
- One gigafactory, several mines, 5 airports, a naval air station, an army depot
- And a variety of business and industry



Serving the
area with only

164

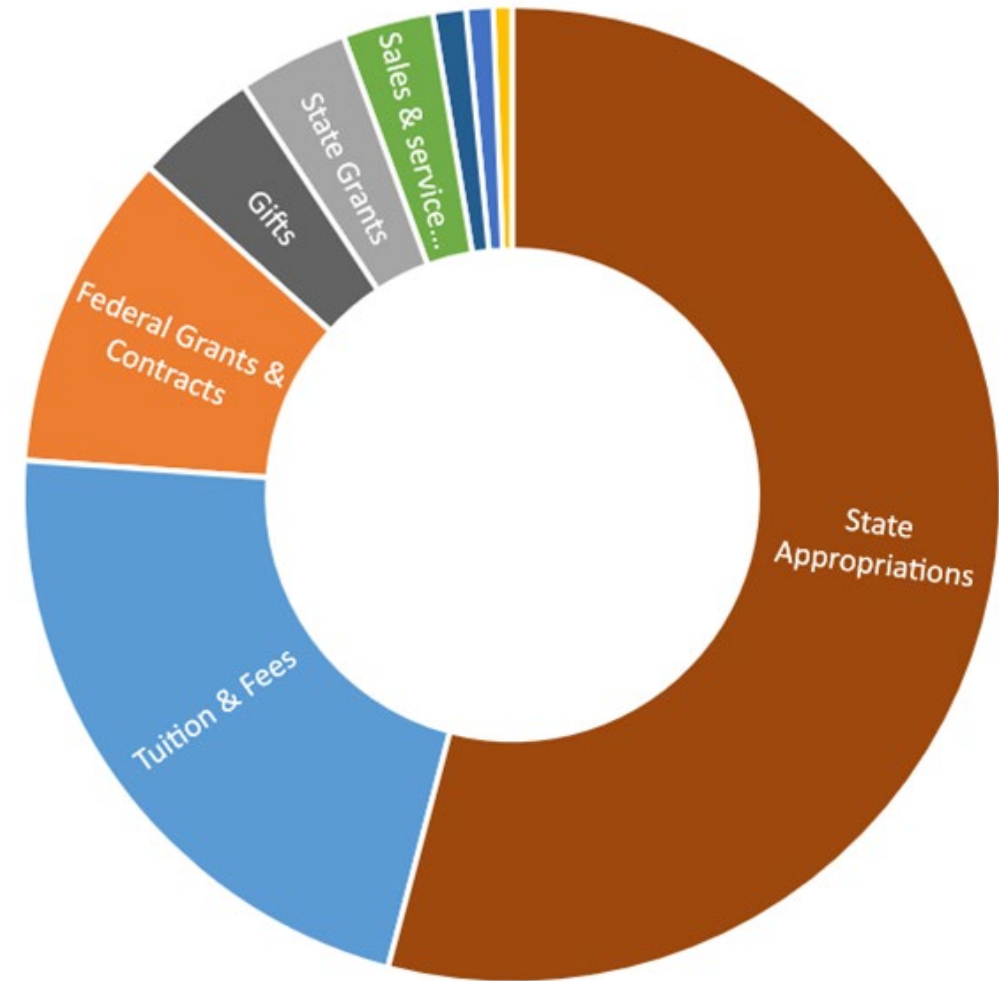
Full-time employees



FY23 Funding Sources

State Appropriation	\$13,665,000
Tuition & Fees	\$5,565,000
Federal G&C	\$2,665,000
State G&C	\$918,000
Other G&C	\$160,000
Gifts	\$1,029,000
Sales & Svc - Educational	\$225,000
Sales & Svc - Auxiliary	\$759,000
Other Operating	\$276,000
Total	\$25,262,000

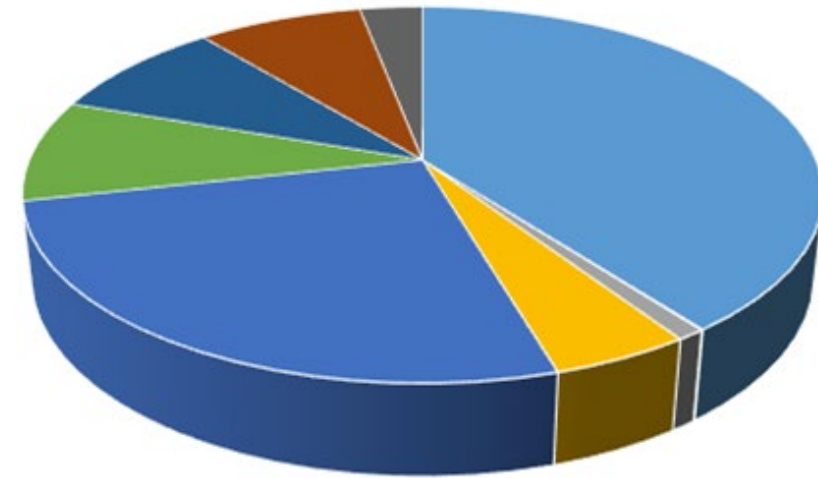
FY23 Funding Sources



FY23 Functional Expenses

Instruction	40%
Research	0%
Public Service	1%
Academic Support	5%
Institutional Support	26%
Student Services	9%
O&M of plant	9%
Scholarships	8%
Auxiliary	3%

FY23 Functional Expenses



- Instruction
- Research
- Public service
- Academic support
- Institutional support
- Student services
- Operation and maintenance of plant
- Scholarships and fellowships
- Auxiliary enterprises
- Depreciation



Mission Fulfillment Impact by Current Formula

No specific drivers for the community college mission

Budget planning unknowns

(count year, look back, no hold harmless)

Performance Pool liability and no incentives

No summer state funding (except nursing)

Small Institution Factor: low threshold/outdated value

Limited support for waivers and discounts



Recommendations

Develop mission specific funding for community colleges

- Small class sizes
- Support/wrap around services
- Service areas and locations

Fund ALL higher education based on caseload

- Allocate funds each semester
- Develop a value for WSCH that adjusts with inflation
- Use the formula to fund, not just distribute
- Create a hold harmless plan

Eliminate the current “Performance Pool”

- Add current funding to the base allocation
- Create a true Performance Pool that includes metrics that align with the state’s master plan

Continue the Small Institution Factor

- Recognize minimum infrastructure/staffing
- Increase minimum threshold to 150,000 WSCH
- Increase the current \$30 to \$50

Develop funding for Summer and Non-Credit Classes

- Maximize college operations to match 365/24/7 workforce
- Reduce need for expansion during “traditional” semesters

Support Fee Waivers/Dual Enrollment

- \$242,500 WNC waivers
- \$1,148,000 WNC dual enrollment program discounts

