

Nevada System of Higher Education

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March 26, 2018

Assemblywoman Amber Joiner, Chair
Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education
Nevada Legislature
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Deliver via e-mail

RE: Millennium and Pell Grant Values Relative to the Base Registration Fee and Other
Mandatory Fees

Dear Chairwoman Joiner:

Thank you for the opportunity to present before the Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and Affordability of the Higher Education on March 22, 2018. In regards to the materials presented by the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) on the subject of college affordability in Nevada, the following additional information was requested and is included herein: 1) current values of the Millennium Scholarship for the state college and universities (in addition to the community college values previously presented), relative to the base registration fee and other mandatory fees; and 2) current value of the federal Pell Grant award for all institutions types relative to the base registration fee and other mandatory fees.

In addition to the information requested, also included here is an updated slide regarding the distribution of NSHE financial aid by source. The portion of financial aid disbursed in 2015-16 from state funding sources was 14.6 percent or \$85.7 million of the total disbursed amount of \$587.7 million.

Value of the Millennium Scholarship (2017-18)

The following table indicates the portion of base registration fees and other mandatory fees covered by the Millennium Scholarship by institution type. The analysis presented to the Committee included historical information for the community colleges only and was based solely on the base registration fee. This additional data includes the state college and universities and also includes the average mandatory fees paid by all students (assuming full-time enrollment for the year totaling 30 credits). Currently, the Millennium Scholarship will fund students up to 15

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credits in the fall, spring and summer semesters, with no minimum credit requirement in summer. Figures provided in the table are based on fees for the 2017-18 academic year.

Portion of the Base Registration Fee + Other Mandatory Fees Paid by All Students Covered by the Millennium Scholarship Maximum Award Amount, 2017-18			
	Community Colleges*	State College	Universities
Base Registration Fee	\$95.00/credit	\$151.75/credit	\$215.50/credit
Other Mandatory Fees**	\$255	\$728	\$1,062
Total Annual Cost (30 credits per year)	\$3,105	\$5,281	\$7,527
Millennium Scholarship Award	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400
MS as a % of Base Reg. Fees + other mandatory Fees (30 credits)	38.6%	34.1%	31.8%

*Example is for lower-division per credit costs only.

**Includes the average mandatory fees paid by all students, including but not limited to the technology, facilities, academic success, and student association fees.

Value of the Pell Grant (2017-18)

Testimony before the Committee during the March 22, 2018, meeting, indicated that the value of the Pell Grant has eroded relative to fees paid at the universities. The following table provides the portion of the base registration fee plus other mandatory fees paid by all students covered by the maximum Pell Grant award, which is \$5,920 for a full-time student (30 credits) in academic year 2017-18. The table below indicates that the Pell award exceeds the base registration fee and other mandatory fees for a full-time student at the community colleges and state college, but only covers 78.6 percent at the universities.

Portion of the Base Registration Fee + Other Mandatory Fees Paid by All Students Cover by the Maximum Federal Pell Grant Award, 2017-18			
	Community Colleges*	State College	Universities
Base Registration Fee	\$95.00/credit	\$151.75/credit	\$215.50/credit
Other Mandatory Fees**	\$255	\$728	\$1,062
Total Annual Cost (30 credits per year)	\$3,105	\$5,281	\$7,527
Pell Grant Award	\$5,920	\$5,920	\$5,920
Pell Grant as a % of Base Reg. Fees + other mandatory Fees (30 credits)	190.7%	112.1%	78.6%

*Example is for lower-division per credit costs only.

**Includes the average mandatory fees paid by all students, including but not limited to the technology, facilities, academic success, and student association fees.

NSHE Financial Aid from State Sources

The portion of financial aid disbursed in 2015-16 from state funding sources was 14.6 percent or \$85.7 million of the total disbursed amount of \$587.7 million. This information is reflected in the pie chart on Slide 5 in the financial aid overview presentation. Based on a question from the committee, we realized there was lack of clarity on this slide regarding what is comprised in that number, particularly in relationship to the last three slides in the presentation that focused on state financial aid programs. Of the \$85.7 million in the state category, \$61.5 million was reported as disbursements in formal financial aid programs, as reflected in Slides 10-12. Remaining dollars in this category were expended in a variety of areas, depending upon institution and including, but not limited to, regular student employment, graduate assistant and athletic grants-in-aid, and miscellaneous scholarships. Enclosed is a revised slide for the purpose of providing clarification. Please include the revised slide in the formal meeting record.

Concluding Remarks

I trust this information is useful. If you have any further questions or need additional information, please let me know. I will assume that Ms. Jennifer Ruedy, copied here, will transmit this information to the other members of the committee and will include this letter with the official minutes of the committee meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Crystal Abba", is written over a horizontal line.

Crystal Abba
Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Enc.

cc: Chancellor Thom Reilly
 Chief for Staff Michael Flores
 Vice Chancellor Constance Brooks
 Senator Moises Denis, Vice Chair
 Jennifer Ruedy, Legislative Counsel Bureau



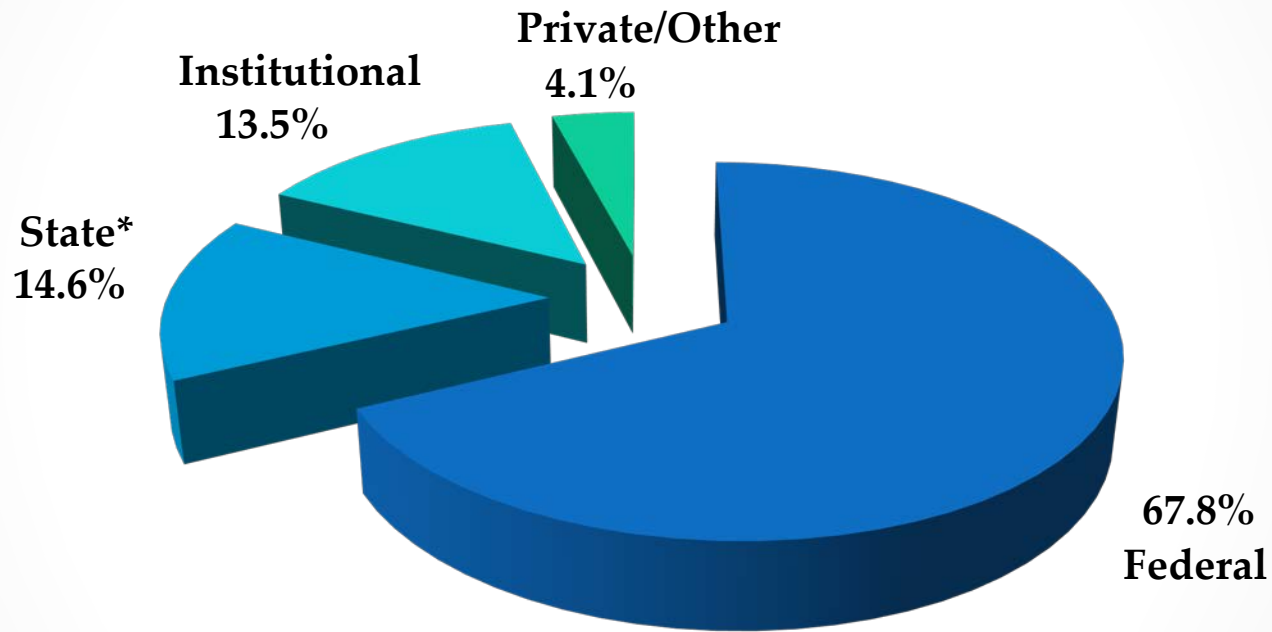
2015-16 NSHE Financial Aid Overview

Prepared by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs
for presentation to the
Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and
Affordability of Higher Education

March 22, 2018 Presentation (updated Slide 5)

NSHE Financial Aid by Source

2015-16 Percent Distribution



The primary source of financial aid continues to be the federal government.

*State dollars reported on the 2015-16 NSHE Financial Aid Report totaled \$85.7 million. Of this total, \$61.5 million was reported to the Board of Regents and NASSGAP as disbursements in formal financial aid programs (see Slides 10-12). Remaining dollars reported in the state category were expended in a variety of areas, including, but not limited to, regular student employment, graduate assistant and athletic grants-in-aid, and miscellaneous scholarships.