WHO ARE TODAY’S STUDENTS?

Nationally, today’s students are more diverse than any previous generation of college students: in age, race, and income level. They’re more mobile and may not live on campus. Most participate in the workforce, either full-time or part-time. Work and family responsibilities beyond the classroom—whether that is on-campus or online—often compete with today’s students’ educational goals.

IN NEVADA...

Elaina Mule, Senior Manager of Community Development at Charles Schwab and Higher Learning Advocates’ Champions Network member advocates for understanding student financial success through data.

“Creating the infrastructure for us to collect and prioritize the student voice in a systematic way, that to me is really important: that we bring rigor and a systematic method to how we’re listening to students and embedding what we learn into the way we make decisions.”

ELAINA MULE’S POLICY POWER PLAYS:

• Redefine data to build clearer measurements of student success.
• Analyze data to craft solutions that improve the student experience and strengthen student support.
• Create infrastructure for collecting, prioritizing, and empowering student voices in a systematic way to create policy change.
SNAPSHOT: How do Nevada’s numbers stack up?

To better understand how Nevada compares to the national higher education landscape, look to the data below detailing trends in enrollment, federal student aid, tuition and fees, earnings, and attainment comparing national and state level data.

ENROLLMENT

Nevada’s total student enrollment is 120,815.

54% of Nevada students attend part-time.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

About 55% of Nevada’s college students and their families take out federal student loans,¹ compared to 70% nationwide.²

1 Includes Direct Subsidized Loan, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Parent PLUS, Grad PLUS, and Perkins Loan.
2 https://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/03/this-is-the-age-most-americans-pay-off-their-student-loans.html

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Enrollment by Student Level survey, Fall 2017 preliminary data. Includes undergraduate and graduate fall enrollment.


**SNAPSHOT: How do Nevada’s numbers stack up?**

**TUITION & FEES**

Nevada’s institutions of higher education tuition & fees are below the national average.

Source: College Board. Trends in College Pricing 2018. Figure 5 and 6. https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing


**ATTAINMENT**

In 2016-2017, above-average rates of Nevada students obtained certificates compared to the rest of the nation, but Nevada students obtained bachelor’s degrees below the national average.


Note: Certificates only include less than one year and at least one year but less than 4 years.
SNAPSHOT: How do Nevada’s numbers stack up?

ATTAINMENT continued

As of February 2019, **37.9%** of Nevada residents ages 25-64 have obtained a certificate or postsecondary degree.

NATIONALLY, **47.6%** of Americans ages 25-64 have obtained a certificate or postsecondary degree.

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Nevada Education Levels for Residents Ages 25-64

- High School Graduate or less: 7.8%
- Some college, no credential: 16.8%
- Certificate: 8.3%
- Associate Degree: 42.2%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 19.9%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 5.0%


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Percentage of Nevada Residents Ages 25-64 with at least an Associate’s Degree by Race

- Hispanic: 24%
- White: 47%
- African-American: 31%
- American Indian: 25%
- Asian & Pacific Islander: 63%


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SNAPSHOT: How do Nevada’s numbers stack up?

EARNINGS AND EMPLOYMENT

Americans who earn a postsecondary degree or credential have higher earnings potential.

Source: Georgetown University Center for Education and Workforce. Certificates: Gateway to Gainful Employment and College Degrees. https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/certificates/

Nevada workers with higher levels of postsecondary attainment have more earning power than their peers with less than a bachelor’s degree. The median earnings of Nevada residents is below the national average for residents with a bachelor’s degree.


The majority of jobs nationwide in 2020 will require education beyond high school.

Outcomes are critical for today’s students—including completion, employment, equity, and value—to be gained from higher learning. Federal policy needs to catch up to the way that today’s students are learning and reward institutions and systems that deliver the strongest career and educational outcomes.

**FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID** should be redesigned with a focus on the needs of a wide range of students, especially those who work full- or part-time, are financially independent, or need to enroll in courses outside the traditional two-semester approach. Redesign approaches could include rethinking Pell eligibility for workforce programs, or simpler loan repayment to match today’s students’ needs.

**DATA** gathered through federal, state, and workforce data systems should cover the full spectrum of today’s students, not just first-time, full-time students. Today’s students, families, schools, and taxpayers need clear information to make informed choices about higher learning.

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*https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/files/Completion%20Grants%20release%208_16_17%20FINAL.pdf*

*https://www.luminafoundation.org/todays-student-statistics*