

2012-2018



# Strategic Plan Summary



Western Nevada College

# Mission Statement



**Western Nevada College inspires success in our community through opportunities that cultivate creativity, intellectual growth and technological excellence in an environment that nurtures individual potential and respects differences.**

**2011-12**

**Strategic Planning  
For Institutional Effectiveness Committee**

Bonnie Bertocchi  
Sherry Black  
Catherine Boedenauer  
Deborah Case  
Maxine Cirac  
Ashley DeRosa  
Renee Magrini  
Gil Martin  
Jose Martinez  
Daniel Neverett  
Linda Ritter  
Danna Sturm (Chair)

# Message From Dr. Carol A. Lucey



During the past 12 years, the college's strategic plans have transitioned from a focus on student enrollment (2000-2006) to one focused on student success (2006-2012). Most recently, the plan has been further refined to focus on implementation of strategies to support students in their attainment of degrees and certificates, and completion of employment training programs.

As a result of these plans, the college experienced significant increases in degree-seekers, increased numbers of service area high school graduates attending WNC, and improved course completion rates. We also implemented a number of initiatives centered on enhancing student success and campus life. These included the construction of a new library/student center and an observatory, the development of intercollegiate athletics (baseball and softball), creation of a student 'cohort' approach (Latino/Latina, rural, veterans, etc.) as a method of promoting student success, and *Project Graduate*, an initiative to increase the students' graduation and transfer rates.

Forward progress was curtailed dramatically because of unprecedented fiscal challenges facing Nevada during the last two legislative sessions. These challenges produced uncertainty throughout our service area about the college's future mission and even its very survival. In the end, the college experienced a significant reduction in its General Fund allocation in 2011 resulting in a substantial loss of enrollment and the related student fee revenue. The confluence of these challenges forced the college to examine carefully its role in serving Nevada. The college has once again refocused, this time on strategies to implement state- and community-based initiatives such as *Complete College America*, *Dream It Do It*, and the new Nevada Board of Regents' *Strategic Directions*.

The 2012-2018 Western Nevada College Strategic Plan is developed as a road map to further transform the college, enabling WNC to meet our new challenges and better serve our state, our students and our communities, despite currently straitened financial circumstances.

Carol A. Lucey  
President

# Trends in Higher Education



In 2009, President Obama called education the economic issue of our time and challenged colleges and universities to increase graduation rates dramatically by 2020 to improve young Americans' chances of succeeding in today's knowledge economy. This is a difficult challenge, considering that states' appropriations to higher education have decreased substantially in recent years, tuition rates have increased to defray a portion of the shortfall, and administrators are challenged to devise creative

means to do more with much less.

Nevada has been especially hard hit by the distressed economy.

The state has the nation's highest unemployment rate and the lowest degree attainment rate (tied with Arkansas and New Mexico in 2009 at 28 percent among those between the ages of 25 and 34).

The state's over-reliance on revenue from tourism,

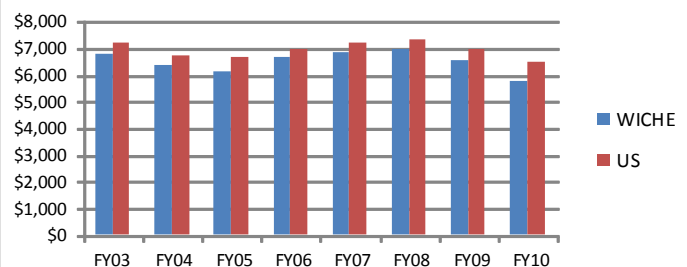
construction, and gaming has helped to put Nevada in this precarious position. A strengthened business-education partnership must play a crucial role in creating a well-educated workforce that will attract new industries.

In many other developed countries, the share of young adults with two- or four-year degrees has grown significantly over the last generation, but in America, the degree attainment rate has remained relatively flat for a generation. America stands to lose its economic competitiveness unless this changes soon. Thirty-five years ago, 28 percent of U.S. jobs required a postsecondary education. That figure is expected to reach 63 percent by 2020, and that is the degree attainment goal that Nevada's higher education leaders have set in response to President Obama's challenge.

In order to meet this goal, WNC must quickly transform itself from an open-access, course-oriented college to one focused solely on producing graduates of programs that support state economic development.

## State Appropriations per FTE WICHE and U.S.

Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers, *State Higher Education Finance Survey*



# The Financial Environment



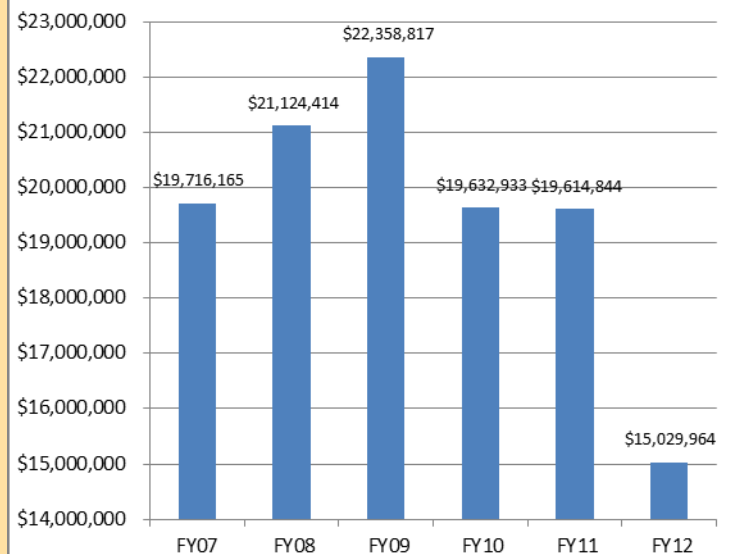
During the past several years, the national economy faced challenges not seen since the Great Depression. Institutions of higher education shared in the significant funding reductions imposed by all states on their agencies and departments.

Nevada was especially negatively affected by these economic realities, and the Nevada System of Higher Education experienced reductions in General Fund allocations exceeding 28 percent since 2007.

Western Nevada College anticipated the need to make dramatic reductions in expenditures in that year, and initiated a proactive, dynamic program of hiring freezes, expenditure reductions, and the identification of cost-saving initiatives. These processes enabled WNC to meet the reductions imposed during the last four years, but not without altering the core mission of the institution - meeting the higher education needs of the residents of its 18,000-square-mile service area.

Recognizing that funding trends are unlikely to improve significantly in the near future, WNC is committed to a continuous process of re-inventing itself as a catalyst to improve the lives of western Nevada residents, to enhance the economic environment for regional businesses and industries, and to provide higher education in the most cost effective and efficient way possible.

**WNC General Fund Allocation FY07-FY12**





# The Strategic Planning Process

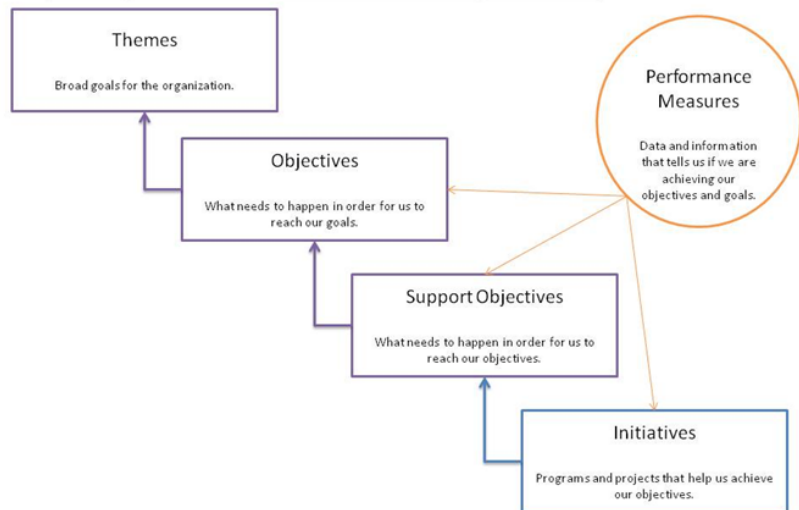


The prior Western Nevada College Strategic Plan was developed for the period from 2006 to 2012. As the college entered 2011, a process began to create a new plan for the ensuing six years. The Strategic Planning for Institutional Effectiveness (SPFIE) committee, made up of representatives of faculty, staff, students and the community, developed an open process to generate ideas about the current state of Western Nevada College, where the college needed

to go between 2012 and 2018, and how it would get there. The committee adopted a template for the Strategic Plan that went beyond general themes and performance indicators. The new template called for the following:

1. Specific objectives supporting each theme.
2. Lists of objectives that further define what is needed for success.
3. Initiatives - projects or programs that support the objectives. These projects or programs are the “Action Items” in the plan. Each initiative is developed for a two-year period. Development of new initiatives will take place every two years of the plan.

## Components of the Strategic Plan



4. As objectives are set and initiatives are identified, targets for performance indicators are included in the plan. These targets define success and give Western Nevada College a measurable goal. Performance indicators (measures) provide data as a tool to analyze success and factors impacting success.

# The Strategic Planning Process



The following open sessions were held to create this plan:

## **Planning Workshop**

In January 2011, the SPFIE committee facilitated a three-part strategic planning workshop with about

65 participants, including representatives from student government, faculty, staff, administration, and the community.

The all-day workshop began with brainstorming in small groups to identify core themes and objectives. Next, breakout groups discussed the college's current environment in terms of its strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities (SWOT) as they relate to the college's objectives. Finally, participants identified initiatives that would advance the core themes and objectives.

## **Spring 2011 Open Forum**

At an Open Forum on April 15, the SPFIE committee presented a draft strategic plan based on a review of the January SWOT analysis and suggested initiatives.

From that point, the SPFIE committee met repeatedly to revise and refine the plan, taking into account the dramatic changes that were unfolding after rounds of budget cuts and recent directives from the Board of Regents.

## **Fall 2011 Open Forum**

The SPFIE committee presented the latest draft plan October 7 at an Open Forum and solicited input on the objectives, initiatives, and performance indicators included in that document.



The draft plan was made available on the WNC website and feedback welcomed throughout the planning process.

Although the 2012-2018 Strategic Plan maintained the overall themes adopted in the 2006-2012 Strategic Plan, it went further to describe what is necessary for Western Nevada College to not only survive, but to thrive in an ever-changing world.

# The Strategy Execution Process

This strategic plan is a fluid and interactive document. It includes a defined strategy execution process that requires regular review of performance indicators, updates on current initiatives, and open discussion of challenges and opportunities for course corrections where warranted. The strategic execution process is a dynamic and inclusive method for insuring that goals are met throughout the life of the plan.

Each year of the plan, the following steps will be taken:

1. The strategic plan is initially approved. Each year, the objectives and measure in the plan are re-evaluated based upon the current environment and changes are made.
2. Objectives, initiatives and associated performance measures (indicators) are assigned to staff, department and/or committees. These designated “responsible parties” are required to report back to the SPFIE committee at mid-year. “Responsible parties” can include internal committees and advisory groups with membership outside of the college. Engaging the community in the process broadens the scope of opinion and observation beyond the institution.
3. SPFIE consolidates the reports and publishes a progress report. This progress report includes:
  - a. Updated performance data as compared to targets.
  - b. An analysis of variances between targets and performance data where appropriate.
  - c. A summary of the activities that have taken place to support the plan.
  - d. Initial proposed changes to the plan in the upcoming year.
4. At year-end, responsible parties provide year-end progress reports to SPFIE. SPFIE consolidates the reports and publishes a year-end progress report for distribution. This report becomes the basis for the annual strategic planning session. From this session, any changes to the plan are adopted and the cycle starts over.



This system of accountability and open communication ensures that all parties are doing their part to advance the objectives of the strategic plan. All stakeholders in Western Nevada College become active participants in its success.



# Institutional Themes



Western Nevada College supports its mission with three core themes: *Student Success*, *Institutional Excellence*, and *One College Serving Many Communities*. All of WNC's practices, initiatives, aspirations, and accomplishments manifest the college's mission in terms of these interrelated themes.

## **Theme #1: Student Success**

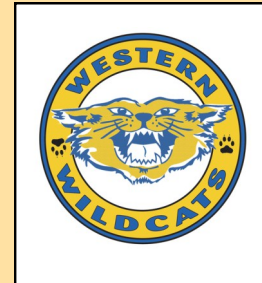
The primary responsibility of an institution of higher learning is to provide opportunities and means for students to accomplish their academic and career goals. WNC strives to foster within all of its students the desire to pursue knowledge as an end in itself and to continue this pursuit for a lifetime. WNC considers itself successful only when its students succeed. To that end, the college's resources are focused on students, in particular, on students completing academic programs and graduating in a timely manner. Even in challenging economic times, the college maintains that focus and exerts even more effort to make sure students succeed.

## **Theme #2: Institutional Excellence**

Inspiring success in our community requires institutional commitment to excellence and transparency. Courses, programs, and services provide bridges of opportunity over which students can travel from where they are educationally to where they are capable of going. This multi-faceted core theme embraces academic programming of the highest quality, programs that meet the needs of the WNC community, an institutional system of governance and management that highlights integrity and communication, and an institution that strives for financial and environmental sustainability.

## **Theme #3: One College Serving Many Communities**

In a multi-campus college serving a large geographical area, access to higher education courses, provision of personal and community enrichment activities and promotion of community connections are essential if the college is to meet the needs of its diverse communities in an environment that nurtures individual potential and respects differences.



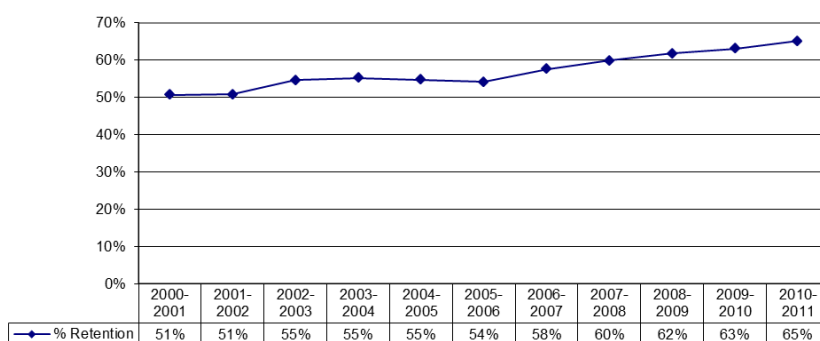
# Theme 1 - Student Success



The first goal of Western Nevada College's previous six-year strategic plan was to improve student success rates. Consequently, during the past decade the college has placed great emphasis on developing programs, policies, and services to significantly increase access for all students, to support and retain them, and to assist them in successfully accomplishing their educational goals. Over the last ten years, the percentage of students re-enrolling in courses from fall to spring increased 14 percent, there was a 35 percent

increase in degrees and certificates being awarded, and the high school to college transition rate in the WNC service area doubled. The college continues to recognize the critical importance of student success and lists it as the first theme in the 2012-2018 strategic plan.

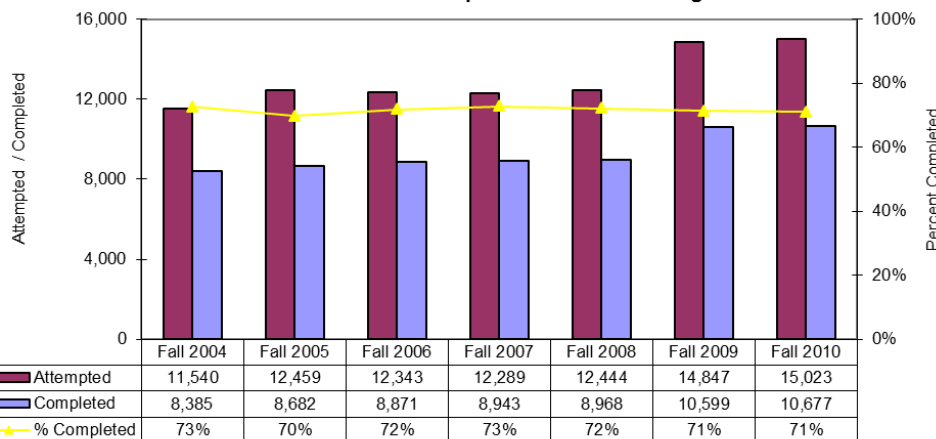
Student Retention Rate from Fall to Spring



In addition, the Nevada Board of Regents focused its current master plan, *Building Nevada's Future: A Master Plan for Higher Education in Nevada*, on graduating more students with meaningful degrees and certificates, "thus positioning the graduates for

fulfilling and productive careers and positioning the state with an educated citizenry required for supporting and maintaining economic development and diversification."

Successful Course Completion Rate - All College



# Theme 1 - Student Success

Working in concert with the Regents, the *Student Success* theme in WNC's strategic plan is divided into the following two primary objectives:

- students graduate with a degree or certificate
- students are engaged in the college experience

The first objective reflects key educational practices designed to guide and support students as they obtain a degree or certificate. The second objective reflects the importance of providing opportunities for students to engage in the college experience through connecting with faculty, staff, and their peers.

## Students graduate with a degree or certificate

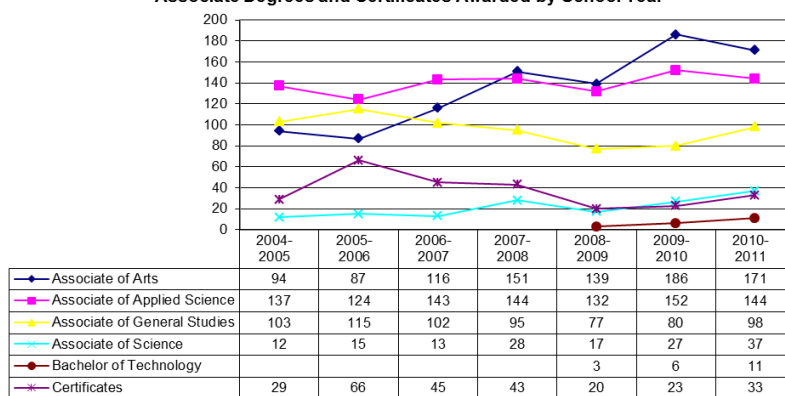
There are four educational milestones that delineate a student successfully obtaining a degree or certificate at the college. The 2012-2018 plan articulates these milestones, notes any activities currently in place to support them, and formulates initiatives to further their effectiveness.

These are:

### 1. *Students identify their educational goals*

Currently, students are strongly encouraged to meet with a counselor prior to registering for classes to make sure they are selecting classes needed to reach their educational goal and that they have met the prerequisite requirements for those courses. This

Associate Degrees and Certificates Awarded by School Year



process will become more proactive beginning fall 2012 with the *Project Graduate* initiative which will require all new degree and certificate seeking students to take placement tests in reading, English and math, attend an orientation session, and meet with a counselor for academic advisement before they will be allowed to register for classes. Further, students will be assigned to a counselor based on their declared degree so that they join an advising cohort with students pursuing similar degrees.

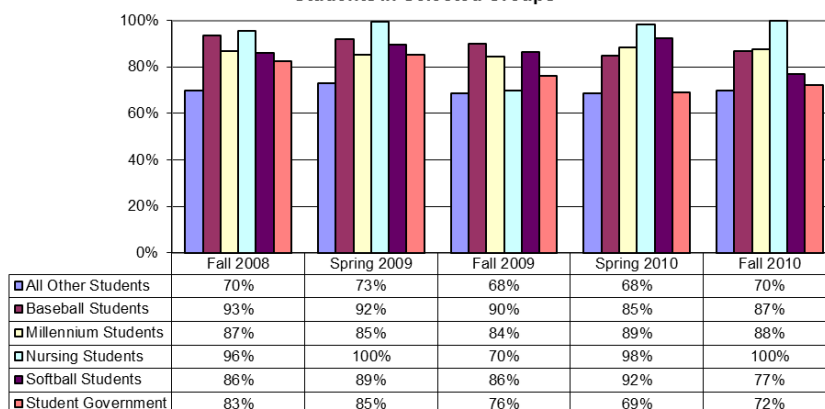
# Theme 1 - Student Success

## 2. *Students successfully complete courses*

As students move toward graduation, successful course completion is critical.

Strategies currently in place to assist students include an Early Alert warning system which faculty use to alert counselors that a student may be struggling academically, well equipped and staffed free tutoring centers, extensive library resources and services, and faculty advising/mentoring. Beginning fall 2012, additional prerequisites will be automatically enforced by the new student registration system which will prevent students from registering for a class without having demonstrated the requisite knowledge by completing the previous course in the sequence.

**Successful Course Completion Rate by Full-Time Students in Selected Groups**



## 3. *Students continue their education at WNC*



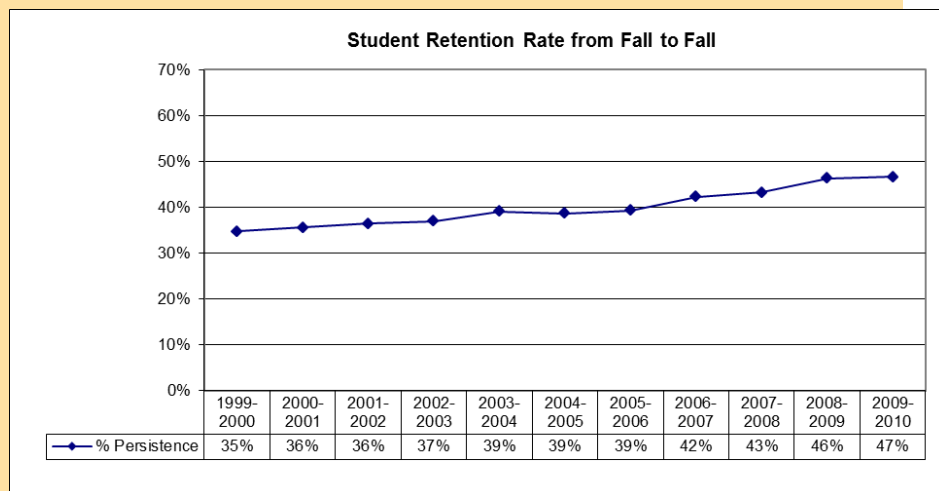
in specific discipline areas including math, chemistry, English and American Sign Language. Classes are offered in a predictable

The more consistently that students re-enroll in courses in each consecutive semester, the more likely it is that they will graduate and reach their educational goal. Consequently, the college has implemented several effective strategies to help retain students from semester to semester. Counselor outreach to students through the Early Alert system resulted in a significant increase in this group completing their courses as well as re-enrolling the following semester. Peer mentors assist and support their peers



# Theme 1 - Student Success

sequence so students can plan their schedules to complete all the courses required for the degree or certificate within a timely manner. New initiatives include reframing degree and certificates to better meet the needs of students as they graduate and either transfer to a four-year school or enter the workforce, as well as getting new students off to the right start by guiding them through the mandatory placement testing, orientation and advising required by *Project Graduate*.



#### 4. *Students successfully transfer to other institutions*



An essential milestone for students successfully completing a degree or certificate at WNC is to prepare transfer-minded students for an easy transition to their next institution of higher education. The preparation begins early in the student's academic career with effective advisement focused on the transfer goal and concludes with providing guidance on applying for admission and easing the transition to the new institution. WNC maintains current transfer agreements with other NSHE institutions which show the student how courses completed at WNC will transfer into a specific major at the other college or university. New initiatives include implementing a co-admission program with the University of Nevada, Reno which will allow students to be simultaneously admitted to WNC and UNR and receive concurrent advising from both institutions.



# Theme 1 - Student Success

## Students are Engaged in the College Experience

National data continues to demonstrate that active student involvement and participation in their college environment promotes academic achievement and retention. Opportunities for various types of engagement at WNC include:

### 1. *Courses engage students in academic content, issues and critical thinking*

- All academic faculty are expected to employ instructional strategies that engage students. Whether on-site instruction or distance education (Interactive Video and Web courses), faculty have the opportunities to access resources on promoting engagement and critical thinking in their courses (i.e. Landmark Teaching Modules).
- The college's Distance Education Committee was recently tasked to implement best practices and has adopted the *Quality Matters™* Program, a faculty-centered, peer review process designed to certify the quality of on-line and blended courses. The program is part of a nation-wide consortium that ensures continuous improvement in on-line education and student learning.



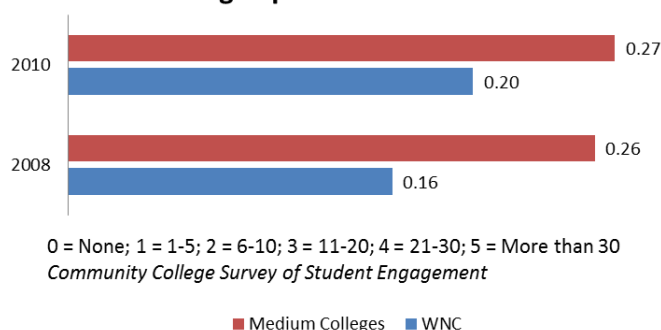
### 2. *Students are involved in campus and community activities*

- Student clubs provide opportunities for networking, scholarship and creativity.

Active clubs at the college include: Nursing, Indigenous Native American, Latino Students, Lone Mountain Writers, Phi Theta Kappa and Student Veterans of WNC.

- Student Ambassadors promote WNC and personalize the college to prospective students, their parents and visitors.

**About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week participating in college-sponsored activities?**



# Theme 1 - Student Success

ASWN demonstrates a passion for providing direct service to their peers at WNC. Their initiatives include tutoring, adopting families in need during Thanksgiving and Christmas by supplying food and gifts, and organizing a



“Giving Tree” to facilitate donations from faculty and staff for student families in need at Christmas. Carrying this spirit of service into the community, ASWN made over 200 blankets for

children placed in domestic violence shelters through a Linus Foundation initiative, packaged food at local shelters, and helped rebuild the adoption room at the Carson City SPCA.

### 3. *Students are involved in campus governance*

- The Associated Students of Western Nevada (ASWN) is the student governing board whose members work to assist their peers through open communication, to help them to achieve goals and face challenges, and to enhance student life. Student government officers serve on most college committees to increase their understanding of how the college functions and to represent the student body.
- Students are supported in their governance role through memberships on committees that have significant impact on them, including the Budget, Sustainability, Curriculum, and SPFIE committees. Students are also supported in their governance role through the allocation of office space for ASWN and through compensation for their involvement in student and campus governance.

#### *A Focus on Students...*

“The Associated Students of Western Nevada is a group of students with diverse backgrounds working together to enhance student life at Western Nevada College. We are the voice of the students and do our best to fulfill their needs. We set high goals for ourselves and do our very best to achieve them. Leadership skills, community outreach, work experience, unforgettable memories and incredible friends are just some of the benefits a member of ASWN receives.”

Ashley DeRosa  
ASWN Vice President

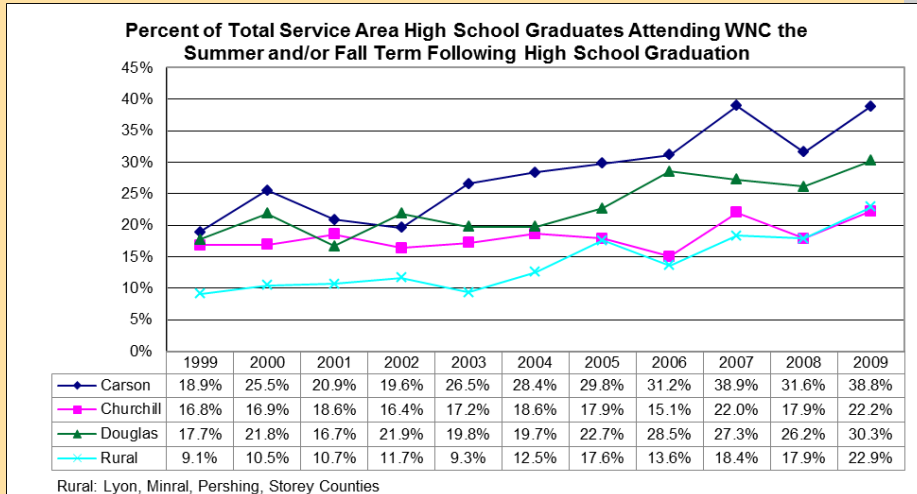
# Theme 2 - Institutional Excellence



Institutional Excellence, the second theme supporting the college mission, focuses on those strategies which enhance the stature of the college among its prospective students, its community base, and its peer institutions. This multi-faceted core theme embraces academic programming of the highest quality, programs and services which meet the needs of the WNC community, an institutional system of governance and management which highlights integrity and communication, and an institution which strives for environmental and financial sustainability.

## Western Nevada College is the educational institution of choice in western Nevada

Students have a variety of choices for higher education in western Nevada. As a valued member of the communities it serves, WNC strives to empower students seeking to further their educational goals, and to assist business and industries seeking quality employee training opportunities. The college has had great success with both the *Bridge to Success* and *Tech Prep* programs for high school juniors and seniors, as well as partnerships with regional businesses. In 2012, the college plans to continue increasing its visibility, and strengthen its communication avenues with schools districts, as well as ensuring alignment of certificate and accredited academic programs with the needs of students and employers.



## Theme 2 - Institutional Excellence

The college will continue to develop programs targeted specifically toward its diverse student population such as expansion of learning cohorts to groups other than the existing Latino unit. In addition, activities will continue to promote the full implementation of the *Project Graduate* initiative and meet the needs of growing and/or changing constituencies such as our veterans. In doing so, the college promotes a comfort level and a sense of belonging for all residents so that WNC remains their educational institution of choice.

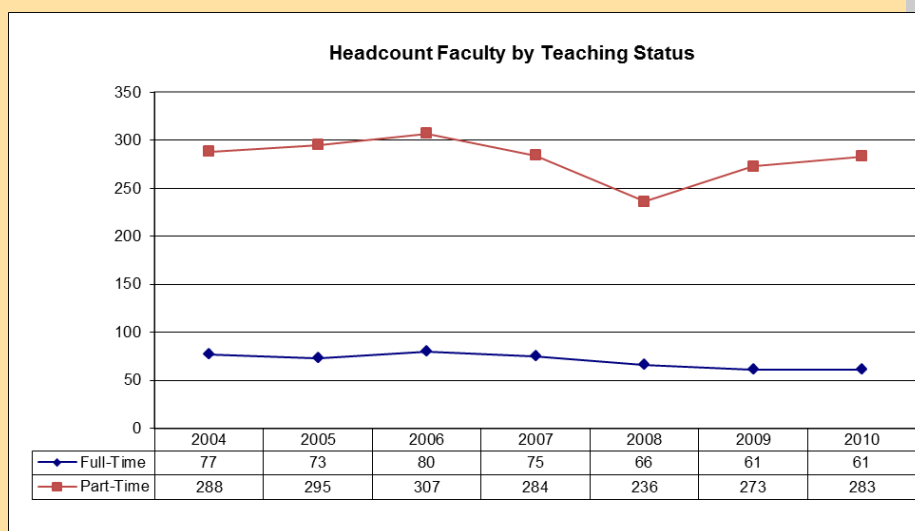
### All academic programming is of the highest quality

WNC academic programming must be of the highest caliber so that students, comfortable in their choice of WNC, know they can compete successfully in an ever-changing world. Currently, faculty and staff review academic programs on a five-year cycle to ensure that these programs contribute to student learning and overall institutional effectiveness.

WNC prides itself

in pursuing national accreditations of its applied programs, and career/technical divisions maintain active curricular advisory committees.

Further, acknowledging that academic programming must be of the highest quality, faculty remain current in their disciplines. Professional development opportunities are strongly supported for all employees. In addition, academic faculty are consistently evaluated by their peers and students. The college has identified several initiatives that it believes will help continue to support the high quality of academic programming. These include requiring outcomes assessment at program and course levels, ensuring alignment of certificate and accredited programs to support the needs of students, improving the engagement of



# Theme 2 - Institutional Excellence

program advisory committees, and assessing faculty evaluation tools. One exciting initiative, driven by the explosion of online courses, is participation in the nationally recognized *Quality Matters*™ program which sets rigorous standards for online classes.



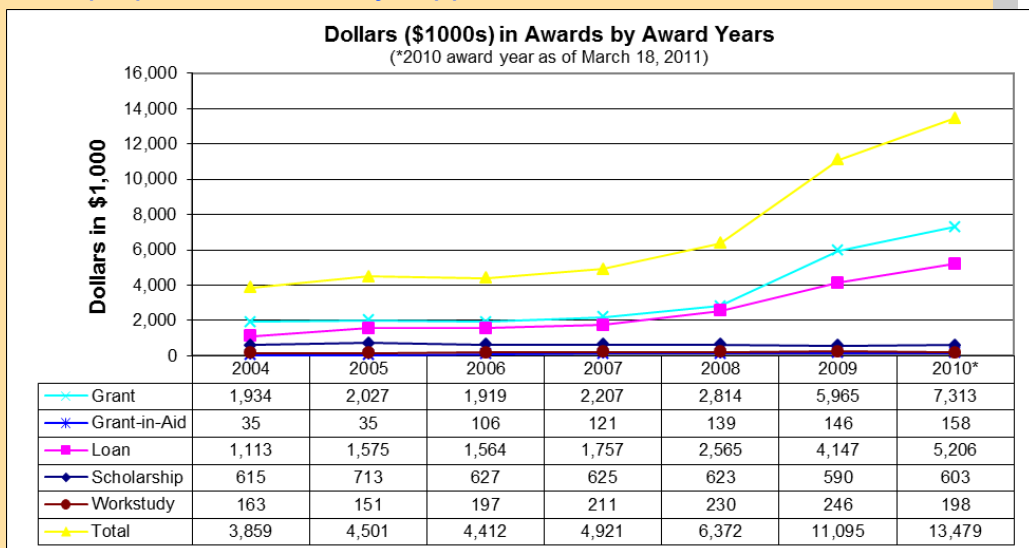
Beginning with courses that provide consistent, measurable outcomes, including certificates and degrees that demonstrate a coherent design and sequencing of courses, the college is focused on accrediting all Associate of Applied Science programs. All degree and certificate granting programs will be overseen by a full-time faculty member.

## All support programs and services meet the needs of the WNC community

The support programs and services of the college have a critical role in meeting the needs of students, faculty, and staff. New admission processes have been initiated to accommodate both NSHE and college standards. Many millions of dollars in financial aid and scholarships are awarded to those students who are eligible. Services such as GED preparation, disability support services and

Diverse support services are available for students on the WNC campuses, including Disability Support Services, which provides assistance to

all students with a documented disability. In addition, there are GED and English Language Learning classes available to help prepare students for college classes.





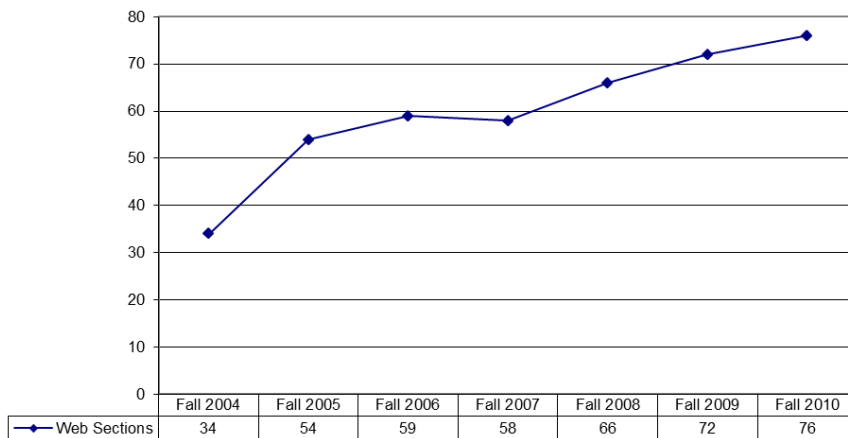
## Theme 2 - Institutional Excellence

Library resources support the educational programs of the college throughout the service area. Technology systems and infrastructure support the needs of academic programs and institutional operational functions.

In the next two years, the college plans to complete a number of campus-funded construction projects to enhance the college environment for students. These include

replacing antiquated heating and cooling systems, enhancing air handling systems in art and automotive technology laboratories, and replacing lighting and electronic equipment in instructional spaces. In addition, WNC will move to a network structure that provides for more efficient resource allocation and authentication services, refine admissions policies and procedures, and provide job placement services to students.

Number of Web Class Sections by Semester



### WNC has an exemplary system of governance and management



To sustain institutional excellence, the college believes that the views of its constituent groups must be considered, that the college supports, recruits, and retains highly qualified faculty, administrators and staff, and hires qualified personnel in sufficient numbers to maintain functions.

Ongoing activities by the Academic and Administrative senates, Classified Council, and ASWN support this objective. An umbrella organization which provides

opportunities for the exchange of ideas and policy approval by all constituencies is the College Council, chaired by the college president.

## Theme 2 - Institutional Excellence

Through a variety of venues, the faculty and staff continue to demonstrate their commitment to maintaining an academic community that recognizes and listens to all

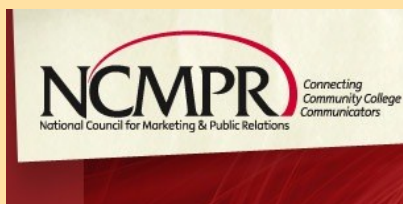


voices, while making decisions that are based on data and a valid assessment of available information. This process does not always result in unanimous agreement on all issues. What it does mean is that members of the college community are given the opportunity to obtain relevant information, discuss issues and data, and to provide input on possible outcomes. These debates help to strengthen the shared sense of being

one focused institution committed to doing what is best for students.

Faculty, staff, and students provide input on matters in which they have a direct interest through participation on committees, councils and senates, and task forces. They are also provided with opportunities to speak at board meetings and college open forums and involvement in the planning and budgeting processes.

A key element of these efforts is maintaining communication with all segments of the community and the sharing of information across the college. All members of the college community are represented on College Council by their council/senate chairs and college-wide communications are available in a variety of formats. During 2011, each individual had an opportunity to be involved in the current strategic planning process. Although the current financial environment limits the college from hiring personnel to



### Information and Marketing Gains National Recognition

The college's Information & Marketing department has been recognized regionally or nationally 11 times in the past six years for excellence in marketing and public relations. The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations has awarded honors to the team for WNC's online class schedules, online student services, video advertisements, movie theater ads, annual report, recruitment viewbook, and most recently, first place nationally for the best radio advertisement.

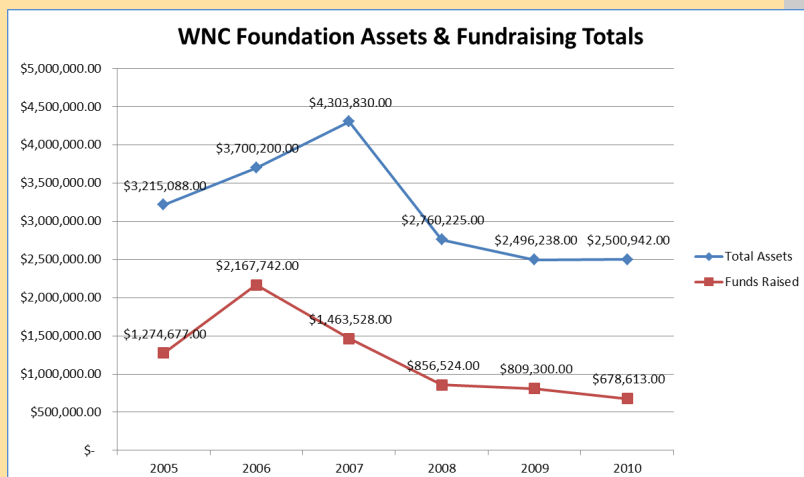
maintain functions at ideal levels, internal promotion and mentoring of part-time and new personnel continues. The current committee structure offers involvement by all employees, and SPFIE will revisit the structure and, as relevant, recommend changes to College Council and the college president.

# Theme 2 - Institutional Excellence

## Western Nevada College strives for institutional sustainability

To fulfill the implicit responsibilities to its various constituents, the college maintains financial stability through proactive and careful budgeting and expenditures. This includes working with various campus groups (College Budget Committee, academic division chairs, Academic/Student Affairs and Administrative Services leadership groups, etc.), to determine funding priorities, collaborations for efficient use of limited resources, and the identification of alternative approaches to addressing a campus or function-specific issue.

Strong working community relationships are also evident in the continuous activities of the WNC Foundation. This group of dedicated individuals from the college's service area identifies opportunities to generate non-state funding in support of the college's efforts. It has been especially successful in obtaining funding for critical facility construction, scholarships, and support for the college's intercollegiate athletic program.



As an environmentally responsible institution, WNC works toward sustainability in our environment. The college is proud to be a signatory to the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. The college currently has an active recycling program, and in partnership with Black Rock Solar, is constructing a 200kW solar array which is projected to generate savings equal to approximately 50 percent of the electricity used in the college's largest building.

Initiatives for 2012-2014 include increasing grants and contracts to support workforce development, additional solar array installations (second 50kW solar array is approved by NVEnergy for the Reynolds Center for Technology), water and energy conservation campaigns, increasing use of post-consumer products, and conducting sustainability education events.

# Theme 3 - One College Serving Many Communities



In a multi-campus college serving a large geographical area, access to higher education courses is essential. As an involved member of its various communities, WNC provides personal and community enrichment activities and promotes community connections. These commitments help ensure that WNC meets the needs of its diverse

service area in an environment that nurtures individual potential and respects differences.

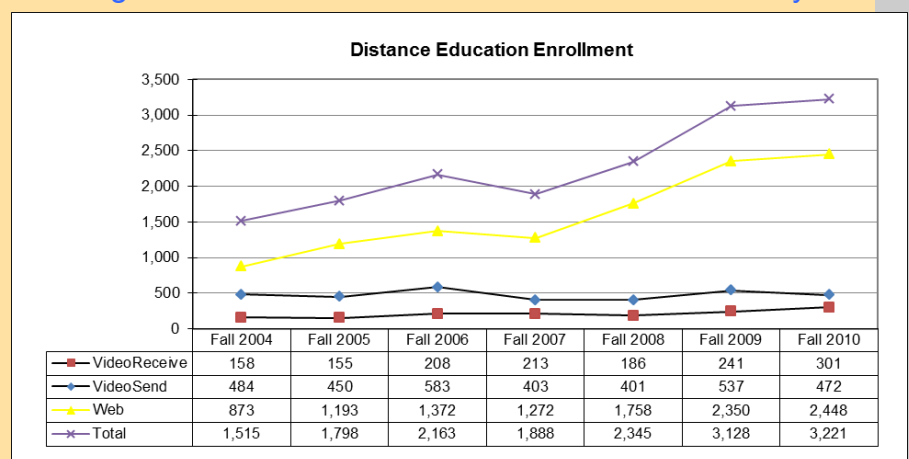
## Promotes access to higher education in western Nevada

Western Nevada College serves many communities by providing a variety of avenues to access higher education. In addition to continuing the college's extensive outreach activities to regional high schools, organizations, and to the general public, WNC pursues innovative partnerships with business and industry, and local and state governmental agencies sectors through our office of Economic Development and Continuing Education.

This goal is implemented through traditional 'in-seat classes' as well as a variety of distance education technologies to maximize student access and success.

The enhanced availability, and expansion of distance education technologies to

meet the needs of student access and learning is paramount in delivering educational opportunities to residents of the college's service area.



# Theme 3 - One College Serving Many Communities

Dual enrollment courses for high school students, Fast Track (reduced fee academic courses for high school students delivered via distance education) and ongoing efforts under the *Tech Prep* and *Bridge to Success* programs, serve as the lynch pins for the delivery of higher education opportunities.

## Serves as a catalyst for personal and community enrichment



In addition, WNC offers a wide variety of personal enrichment opportunities, enhancing the creative and intellectual life of the community. Courses ranging from languages to industrial arts, and personal finance to dance, attest to the college's continuing role as a catalyst for individual development.

Musical theater, arts exhibitions, athletics, and cultural festivals form a nexus between our local communities and our campuses, bringing richness to both.

Western Nevada College is also dedicated to expanding continuing education and economic development strategies for Nevada. Building on the success of programs such as the Specialty Crop Institute, the Carson Manufacturers Forum (subset - Carson

Manufacturing Collaborative), and the Star Parties at the Jack Davis Observatory, WNC strives to strengthen bonds with, and form new relationships with our diverse communities.

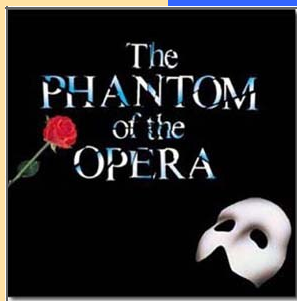
### **Nevada Appeal's Silver Dollar**

Carson City's Talent Never Ceases to Amaze

...talent of our residents never ceases to amaze us, and it was on display again recently during Western

Nevada College Musical Theater Company's production of 'Phantom of the Opera.'

A letter to the editor stated, "This was an exceptional, awe-inspiring, talented, brilliant performance by our very own Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company. To everyone - thank you!"





# Theme 3 - One College Serving Many Communities

## Promotes community connections

WNC recognizes the need for a variety of linkages to our communities and in doing so, provides a number of programs and services to students, faculty and staff, and the communities it serves.

Among these are:

- Quality child care for its students and the community provided through the nationally certified WNC Child Development Center
- English Language Learning classes and our GED program, services that continue to serve the growing needs of area residents striving to improve their lives and to become more active, involved members of our communities
- Practicums and internships in a variety of governmental and educational agencies
- Services to veterans regarding their educational benefits and related financial assistance, as well as support for a college veterans organization
- Volunteer Fair in January to provide college and community members with



exposure to a large number of volunteer organizations in the Carson City area; similar events will be scheduled on the Fallon and Douglas campuses.

Initiatives for 2012-2014 include engaging with our alumni population in

supporting college needs and forging a mutually-beneficial relationship that enhances the college and our community. This engagement is increasingly important due to the need for legislative and non-state financial support for WNC.

Western Nevada College is a comprehensive college which serves more than 5,000 students each semester within an 18,000-square-mile service area. One of four community colleges within the Nevada System of Higher Education, it is accredited by the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities.

Western offers a diverse curriculum that is flexible and tailored to meet students' individual educational goals. By offering several college degrees, certificates and career-building programs, scheduling classes at convenient times, and providing small class sizes and one-on-one counseling opportunities, WNC helps to ensure students a positive and successful college experience.

WNC reaches out to its urban and rural communities with campuses in Carson City, Fallon and Minden/Gardnerville as well as serving Fernley, Hawthorne, Lovelock, Smith Valley, and Yerington. Distance education courses, including interactive video and Internet classes, allow even those in remote locations with ready access to higher education.



# Western Nevada College

2201 West College Parkway

Carson City, Nevada 89703

[www.wnc.edu](http://www.wnc.edu)