

Mission Statement

COUNCIL FOR A BETTER NEVADA

The Council for a Better Nevada is an organization of concerned citizens who seek to improve quality of life in Nevada. Our intention is to identify and engage in community issues whose outcomes will greatly affect the lives of Nevadans. By bringing together talent, resources and leadership from the private, public and non-profit sectors, our goal is to assist those entities in providing solutions to those issues that will create a sustainable, healthy and prosperous Nevada community.

The Council for a Better Nevada engaged in partnership with the greater community to impact progress on a variety of measures during the 2015 legislative session of the state. Improved revenue policy, K-12 education revitalization, federal grant competitiveness, graduate medical education growth and transportation infrastructure are a few of the many issues the Council successfully supported on behalf of a Better Nevada.

Letter from the Chairman

As Nevadans we will always remember 2015 as the banner year for our state, with our continued economic recovery and the historic achievements in our 78th legislative session. We have emerged with renewed momentum as the state continues to transform itself for a stronger economic future and to improve our education standards. As the Council for a Better Nevada (CBN) has now completed its 11th year of engagement on many of these issues, we are pleased to present our 2015 annual report.

The CBN pursued an expansive agenda during the 2015 State legislative session, initiating early support to Governor Sandoval's successful passage of the Nevada Revenue Plan, which would also make permanent the 2009 Sunset tax provisions to buoy his ambitious K-12 education program mandates. Working with the Governor and legislators, CBN was an integral part of making the most significant change to the public school system in over 60 years with some \$340 million in new programs for Early Learners, Modernizing the Nevada Plan, Middle and High School, and Investment in Change. These approved bills include developing a plan to reorganize the Clark County School District via AB 394.

There was further work in K-12 education with the support of SB 508, which makes permanent a weighted student formula for all Nevada students based on earlier years of work by the Council and SB92, which revised how teachers are hired and placed in public schools by mutual agreement. The CBN also continued its impactful work in the federal grant competitiveness arena which promotes the ability to attract more federal dollars to the state. The Council supported the passage of SB473 allowing the state's grants office to be a transparent clearing house for current grants as a tracking system for greater efficiency and SB214, creating a statewide Advisory Council that will advise the Governor on crafting ongoing policy to better attract federal grants to the state. The CBN also participated in the successful passage of AB125 around construction defects and SB514 and partnered with many toward a significant appropriations bill leading to the establishment of the UNLV School of Medicine, greatly impacting the healthcare economy of Southern Nevada. Finally, the Council supported AB191, a fuel indexing bill passed which will now become a ballot issue critical to fund the ongoing transportation infrastructure of southern Nevada.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve for the past two years as the Chairman of the Council. We have worked with so many across the community in our shared successes, yet many challenges remain as we move forward to an exciting future. I am pleased to welcome my colleague John Ritter as our incoming Chairman, who led our successful legislative committee and will serve with great passion for the next two years.

It has been a privilege to serve with my 22 colleagues on the Council and only through your valuable insights and guidance have we ended on this high note with our 2015 accomplishments. We will continue to make our community a better Nevada for our future generations.

Duncan R. Lee
Chairman

Directors



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BAILEY KENNEDY LAW FIRM
FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER



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BARRICK GOLD CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR USA



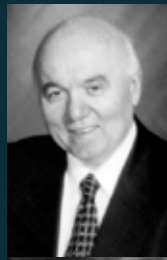
PAT MULROY
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA—LAS VEGAS' BROOKINGS
MOUNTAIN WEST
SENIOR FELLOW FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION &
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & CHAIRMAN
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LAS VEGAS MONORAIL
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FOCUS PROPERTY GROUP
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SUNRISE HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
SUNRISE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
CEO



KEITH SMITH
BOYD GAMING CORPORATION
PRESIDENT & CEO



GEORGE SMITH
BANK OF AMERICA NEVADA
PRESIDENT



JEFF SHAW
SOUTHWEST GAS
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- MICHAEL YACKIRA
- TERRY WRIGHT
- BILL MARTIN
- LINDY SCHUMACHER

ADMINISTRATION



MAUREEN SCHAFER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UNLV SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
CHIEF OF STAFF



NEVADA STATE SENATE

NEVADA STATE
LEGISLATURE

NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY



REVENUE

✓ ASSEMBLY BILL 464

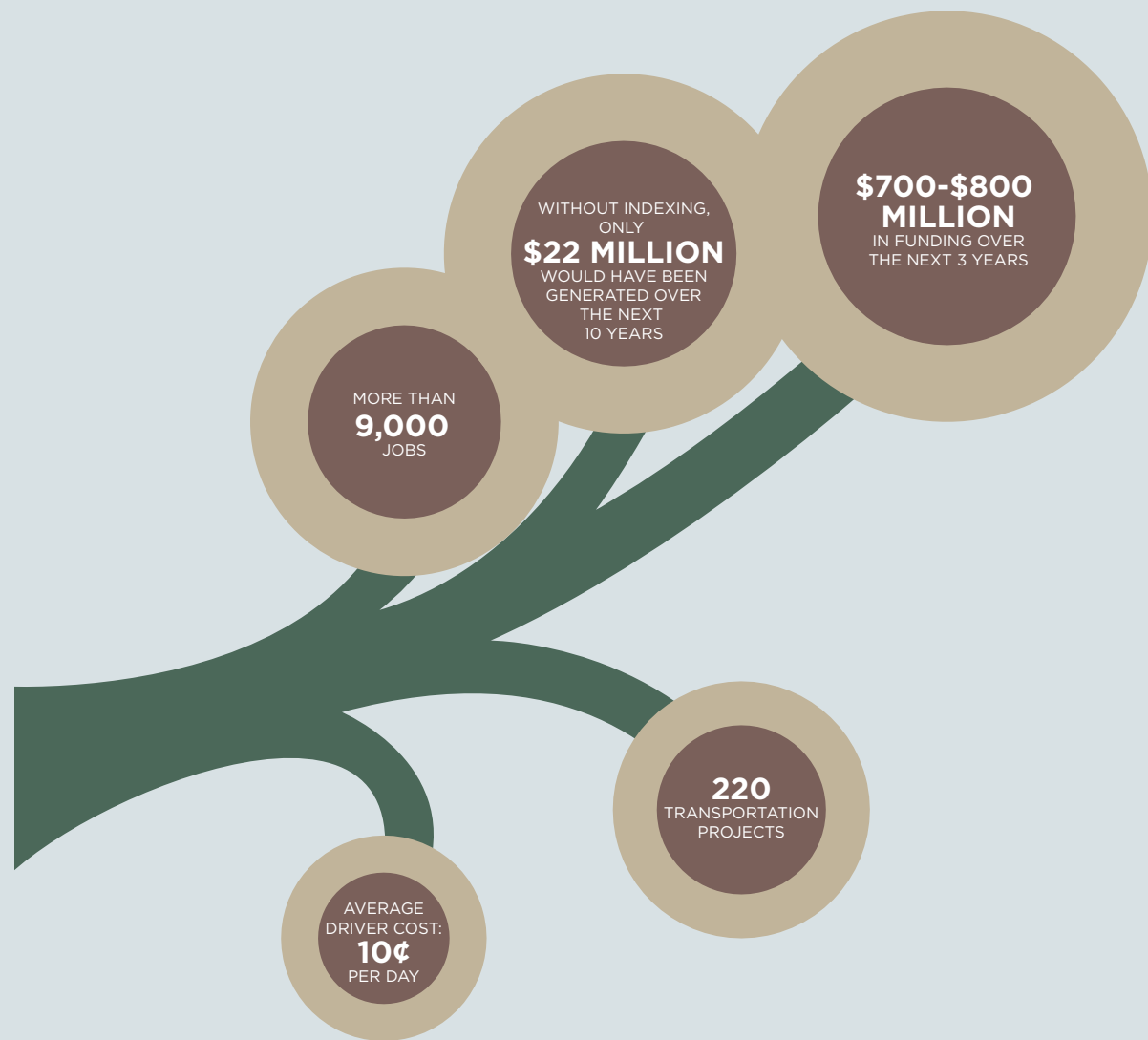
The provisions in AB 464 will raise at least \$510 million every two years. It also adds a new business filing fee and creates a new commerce tax for the gross receipts of a business over \$4 million in revenue. Businesses earning less than \$4 million will be exempt from paying the gross receipts portion. For companies making more than \$200,000 per year, the rates on the payroll tax will be increased from 1.17% to 1.475% with mining and financial institutions paying 2%. Businesses will be able to credit 50% of their gross receipts tax against the payroll tax. It also raises the tax on cigarettes from 80 cents to \$1.80.

✓ SENATE BILL 483

This measure will provide the necessary revenue to fully fund the Governor's budget which includes an unprecedented investment and reforms in education through targeted programs aimed at boosting student achievement.

The bill raises more than \$600 million by increasing payroll and sales taxes and will help fund a \$7.4 billion general fund and boost state K-12 funding by nearly 16% to \$2.85 billion.

“This vote moves us one step closer to cementing the legacy of improving public education by both raising accountability as well as increasing investment in order to suit the needs of generations to come.” - Governor Brian Sandoval



FUEL REVENUE INDEXING

TRANSPORTATION

✓ ASSEMBLY BILL 191

Existing Fuel Indexing in place today is temporary, and the opportunity to fund planned road infrastructure projects on a more permanent basis have been given the opportunity via AB 191 and an upcoming November, 2016 ballot initiative. If approved by a majority of the voters in the county via the scheduled ballot initiative, it will provide for the boards of commissions the ability to continue the imposition of the additional taxes.

As our Southern Nevada community continues to modernize, grow and diversify, the needs of our transportation infrastructure demand more attention. To cover a growing gap in funding, the RTC partnered in 2013 with local leaders, our business community, state legislature, Governor Sandoval and the Clark County Commission to support Fuel Revenue Indexing (FRI) to keep pace with material and labor costs, generate funds for critically needed transportation projects and create jobs.

Fuel Revenue Indexing (FRI) dollars are generated each time a motorist fills up their vehicle with gas. A portion of what we pay at the pump is funding more transportation projects and creating jobs in Southern Nevada.





FEDERAL GRANT COMPETITIVENESS

✓ SENATE BILL 473

This bill addresses an issue identified originally by the Nevada Community Foundation: Nevada agencies often return federal grant funds due to lack of use, and Nevada is losing out on already scarce funding.

This bill authorizes the Office of Grant Procurement and Management to serve as a clearinghouse for unused grant funds by compiling, updating and disseminating a list of available unexpended grant funds through that Office's website.

Additionally, SB 473 requires State agencies to notify the Grants Management Office of not only the grants for which they have applied and any award of grant funds, but also any portion of a grant received by the State Agency that the state agency determines will be unexpended by the end of the period for which the grant was made.

✓ SENATE BILL 214

SB 214 establishes a Statewide Advisory Council for Federal Grants. The Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance is comprised of:

- 1 member of the Senate appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate
- 1 member of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly
- 1 member of a non-profit organization that provides grants in the State appointed by the Governor
- 1 member who represents local government appointed by the Governor
- 1 member who represents private business appointed by the Governor
- The Chief of the Budget Division of the Department of Administration
- The Administrator of the Office of Grant Procurement Coordination and Management

Each appointed member of the Council serves a term of two years, but may not serve more than three years. The goal of this legislation is to build on, and expand upon, the Grants Management Office created in the 2011 legislative session, and to use the Council as a forum to bring leaders from across the State and multiple sectors together to assist and advise Nevada on how to identify, and successfully apply for, federal grants, programs and funds.





K-12 EDUCATION EDUCATION REVITALIZATION

The Nevada Legislature made history this session by passing extraordinary education reform legislation. Beginning on February 2 and adjourning at midnight on June 1, the Nevada Assembly and Senate considered an array of bills that would positively affect the state's families and schools.



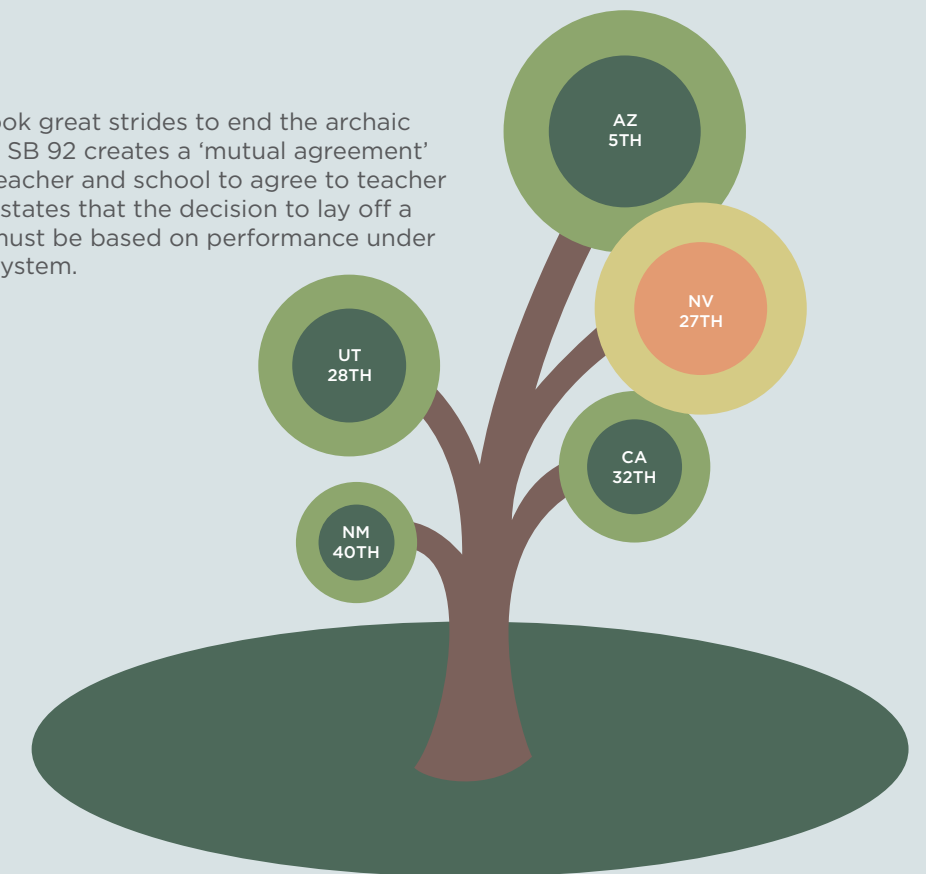
SENATE BILL 508

This measure is considered a landmark reform in the Governor's education package. The original Nevada Plan was enacted in 1967, a time when Nevada's entire population was roughly 450,000. Today, the total enrollment in all of Nevada's public schools alone exceeds that. SB 508 changes the Nevada Plan to process of providing student weights or a multiplier of the basic support guarantee for students who have disabilities, limited English proficiency, are at risk, or are gifted. All students do not require the exact same resources to be successful in the classroom. This legislation addresses the diverse needs of our state and growing population and will improve Nevada's overall delivery of education.

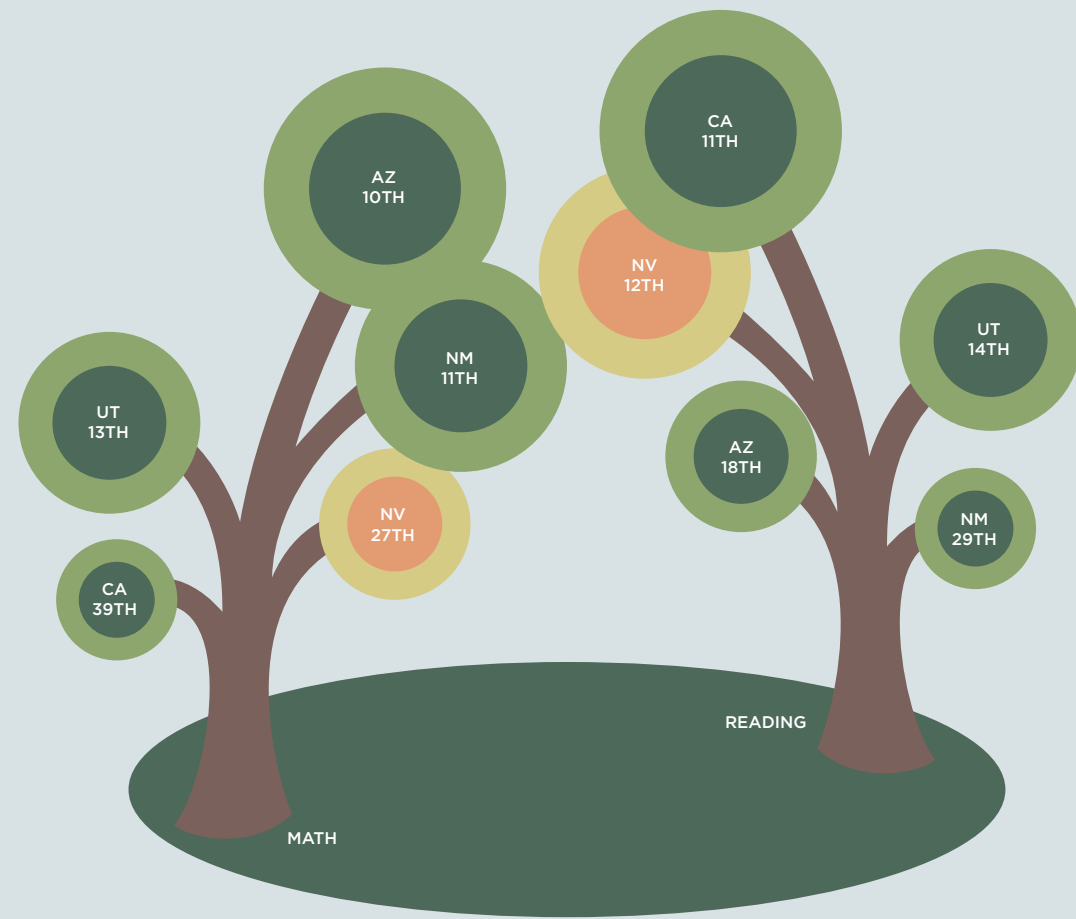


SENATE BILL 92

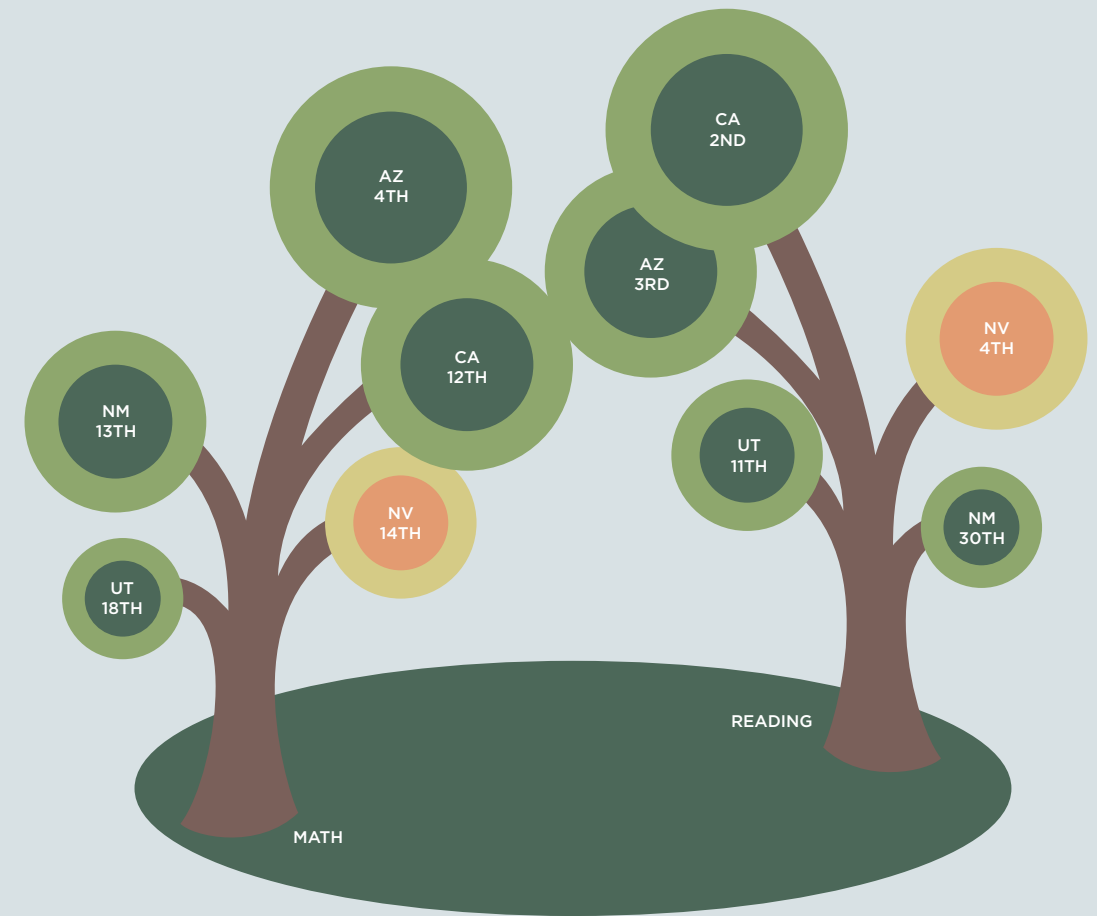
The Nevada Legislature took great strides to end the archaic "Last In, First Out" policy. SB 92 creates a 'mutual agreement' provision requiring both teacher and school to agree to teacher placement in schools and states that the decision to lay off a teacher or administrator must be based on performance under the statewide evaluation system.



NATIONAL RANKINGS BASED ON ACHIEVEMENT GAINS IN MATH EXCELLENCE

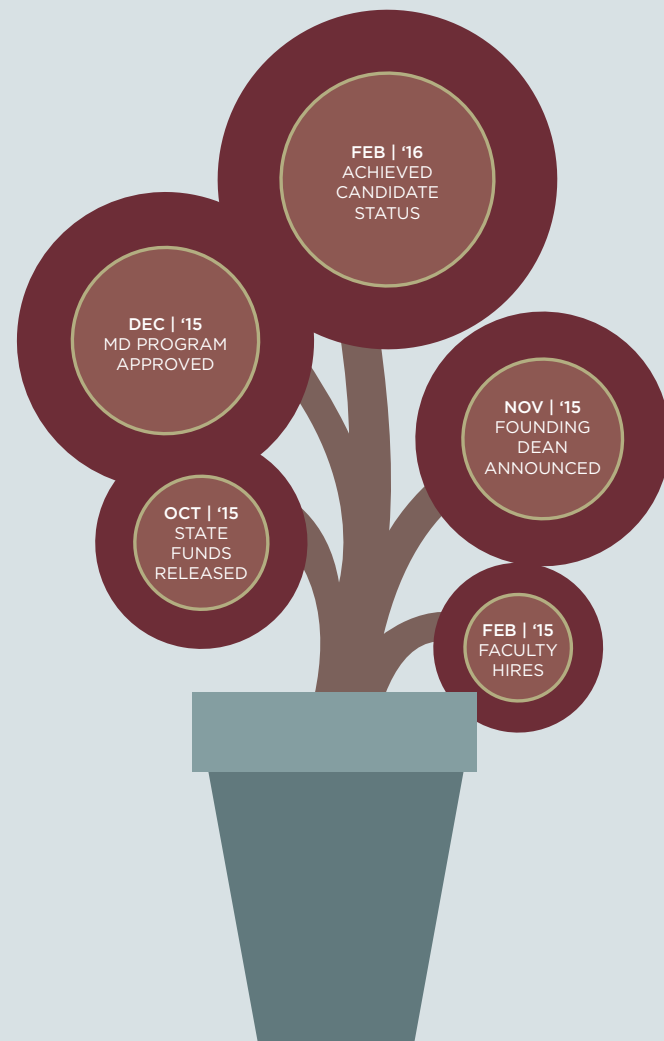


NATIONAL RANKINGS BASED ON GAINS IN 4TH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT



NATIONAL RANKINGS BASED ON GAINS IN 8TH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT





UNLV SCHOOL OF MEDICINE MILESTONES

MEDICAL EDUCATION GROWTH



SENATE BILL 514

An appropriation was directed from the State General Fund to support the Governor's important budget inclusion that supports the founding of the UNLV School of Medicine. With \$26.7 million in operating funds from the state, the UNLV School of Medicine is on track to welcome its charter class in fall 2017. This is southern Nevada's first public allopathic medical school.

Funds will cover start-up costs including faculty and staff hiring, program operations and curriculum development. Public money from the state of Nevada will represent only 18% of the school's total funding when the program is fully mature.

The school is a key part of meeting the health care needs of Nevada's growing population, particularly in the areas of mental health and addiction, neuroscience, cardiology, cancer and orthopedics. It will also have a local economic impact of more than \$1 billion annually and create 8,000 jobs by 2030.

“The Governor and the people of the state 50 years from now ... are going to look back to this Legislative session in 2015 and say they did it right -- they invested, they showed courage, and they changed the trajectory of this state forever.” - Governor Brian Sandoval



