UNLV is a doctoral-degree-granting institution with more than 28,000 students, more than 7,000 of whom are graduate/professional students. The university is ranked in the category of “high research activity” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Nearly 120 graduate degree programs are offered, including 36 doctoral and professional degrees. UNLV offers a broad range of respected academic programs and is increasingly recognized as a premier metropolitan research university.

AWARDS

In FY2007, UNLV received approximately $106.8 million in external award funding with nearly $74.8 million supporting research, including significant support from a number of federal agencies:

- Department of Energy: $20.4 million
- Department of Education: $17 million
- Department of Interior: $10.9 million
- Department of Defense: $3.7 million
- National Science Foundation: $3.2 million

Top Five Academic Areas Receiving Research-Related Award Funding in FY2007

- Research and Graduate Studies: $18.9 million
- Sciences: $18 million
- Engineering: $14.8 million
- Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies: $13.9 million
- Education: $5.8 million

Award Funding By Sponsor Type in FY2007

- Federal: $701 million
- Federal Pass Through: $30.8 million
- State: $3 million
- Local: $1.9 million
- Foundation/Corporate: $1 million

Research expenditure data—the amount of funding expended for the purpose of research—is the gold standard for measurement of research activity in higher education. It indicates the amount of external funding spent by faculty and staff to conduct research; hence, it accurately reflects the productivity of funded researchers. Sponsored program expenditure data reflects activity on all types of sponsored program projects, including those dedicated to instruction or public service, as well as research. Hence, research expenditures are a subset of total sponsored program expenditures.

As the graph below indicates, UNLV faculty and staff expended $104.9 million in sponsored program funding in FY2007, including $53.8 million in research expenditures. This represents a 14 percent increase in sponsored program funding over FY2006 and a 12 percent increase in research funding over the same period.

UNLV Highlights

Sponsored program funding serves as one indication of research growth and sophistication

UNLV’s Science and Engineering Building is scheduled to open this year, providing a sophisticated new facility for interdisciplinary research and education on campus. The building will house research clusters of faculty who focus on such areas as materials science, nanotechnology, entertainment engineering, integrative physiology, and alternative and renewable energy.

Located off Cottage Grove Avenue just north of the Thomas T. Beam Engineering Complex, the building will contain more than 200,000 square feet of laboratories, classrooms, offices, and integrated research spaces. The building is expected to obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, which indicates that a building meets environmentally responsible and sustainable design, construction, and operation standards.

More than a dozen core laboratories will be programmed into the building, including the National Supercomputing Center for Energy and the Environment, a Geographic Information Systems Laboratory, the Imaging and Electron Microscopy Center, and the Nanotechnology Center.

The building will also house the “Solutions Room,” a state-of-the-art visualization facility that will support collaboration among researchers, decision makers, business leaders, and members of the public. It will facilitate discovery of transformative solutions based on visualization using 3-D immersion, interactive modeling, and high-definition video.