

2016

## FY 2016 Annual Report

UNLV Foundation

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UNLV | FOUNDATION

FY 2016  
**annual  
report**

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## Our mission

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises and manages private funds for the benefit of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. These funds enhance the quality of the university and strengthen its missions of teaching, research, and public service.

# A message **to our** **donors**

Donors, alumni, and friends, like you, are creating tremendous opportunities for our students and faculty through your support of UNLV. We are grateful for your generosity and pleased to share the 2015-2016 UNLV Foundation Annual Report.

As you'll read in these pages, private gifts are making a difference across campus. Our stories include a homeless teen beginning her college education after finding a place to call home; a first-generation post-doctoral fellow providing vital mental health services to immigrant families; an emeritus faculty member and public health pioneer endowing a professorship through her estate plan; and a Runnin' Rebel finding success in the classroom while keeping pace on the court.

Your gifts and pledges are driving UNLV's progress towards becoming a top tier research university. Together, we already have achieved a great deal. The Hotel College broke ground on its new Hospitality Hall. The School of Medicine exceeded its goal to provide full scholarships for its inaugural class. Breakthrough research at UNLV is laying the groundwork to diversify our economy.

These stories and thousands more are fueled by the \$75.3 million in gifts and pledges made to the UNLV Foundation over the past year by more than 10,000 donors.

We hope you'll enjoy reading about some of the remarkable people behind these numbers — and we thank you for being part of the amazing success story unfolding at UNLV.



Gregory T.H. Lee  
Chairman, UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees

# boundless possibilities

Ernesto Zamora Ramos first saw a computer when he was seven.  
It was in his elementary school classroom in Cuba.

The size of a large TV, and with no internet access, the computer was slow and outdated. But to him and his classmates, it was something new and amazing.

"Other kids were happy playing a few games. But I wanted to know how it worked," he reflects.

That curiosity drove Zamora Ramos on a path that led him, many years later, to UNLV, where today he is a Ph.D. candidate in computer science at the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering.

"Through high school [in Cuba], I had very limited access to hands-on computer experience. So my knowledge was all theoretical."

That knowledge is now being applied to researching how image and signal processing can be advanced through artificial intelligence. Working with Professor Evangelos Yfantis and other collaborators, Zamora Ramos is exploring ways to increase the efficiency of solar panels. Using data collected through a camera, weather instruments, and a computer, he is designing software that detects when panels require cleaning, before their energy output declines.

When Zamora Ramos received his B.S. from UNLV in 2013 with a 4.0 GPA, he was accepted into graduate programs at UC Berkeley and the University of Southern California. But he opted to stay at UNLV.

"UNLV supported me in many ways, including very generous scholarships. I will always be grateful to the donors who are allowing me to make the most of my education," he says.

Zamora Ramos is a recipient of the Gilman and Bartlett Scholarship, the Wolzinger Family Research Scholarship, the Victor and Marjorie Kunkel Scholarship, and the Ralph S. Dippner Memorial Scholarship. As an undergraduate, he received support from the Konami Gaming, Inc. Scholarship for Computer Science.

"I love America for giving me opportunities that used to seem beyond my reach," he says. "When I arrived in the U.S. with my parents, we had to start from zero."

"Now I have boundless possibilities to build a bright future for myself, my family, and my community. And I have UNLV and its supporters to thank for making it happen."

gifts of **scholarship**

**\$5.7<sup>+</sup> mil** new gifts & pledges were  
made to scholarships


"When I arrived in  
the U.S., we had to  
start from zero."



**800**

graduate students received scholarships

A total of **35** new named scholarships  
were funded



"... it comes  
from someone  
who actually  
understands  
what I went  
through."

gifts of **scholarship**

**\$30,000**

or more required to establish  
an endowed scholarship

# drive to succeed

"My mother wasn't there for many of the big events of my life," recalls UNLV sophomore Carolyn Osborne. "But she would be super happy to know about my scholarship!"

Osborne is a recipient of the Samantha Drobkin Scholarship. The award was established by Bill and Erminia Drobkin in memory of their daughter — a spirited girl who succumbed to cancer at age 13. Osborne understands this type of sorrow; she lost her mother to cancer while she was in high school.

Osborne's loss didn't defeat her drive to succeed. She was valedictorian of her class at Boulder City High School and is striving for perfect grades as she explores majors at UNLV. An avid Agatha Christie fan with an interest in law and human behavior, she is considering a major in criminal justice.

The Drobkin Scholarship offers financial support to students who have battled cancer, or have a family member who has. "Getting this scholarship is a huge honor," Osborne says, "especially knowing that it comes from someone who actually understands what I went through."

10,000 undergraduate students  
received scholarships

539  
donors made gifts to scholarships

# raised**hopes**

Many kids leave home to come to college. Theresa Butler came to college to find a home.

Homeless throughout high school, and struggling with a mother facing drug addiction, Butler is one of six freshmen who form the inaugural class of the UNLV HOPE Scholars Program. She now lives on campus and is striving to achieve her goal of one day earning a medical degree and opening a clinic.

"I got help getting into UNLV without worrying about where I was going to live, and whether or not I would be kicked out of my house the next day," says Butler, who had been couch-surfing with friends and struggling to find a safe place to stay.

"HOPE relieved that stress so I could focus on my dreams, and focus on the things that matter."

A new partnership between UNLV, the Clark County School District Title I HOPE Program, and Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, the UNLV HOPE Scholars Program helps unaccompanied homeless youth get into college — and once in, helps them to succeed. The program provides housing, as well as academic and financial support, including a \$7,500 scholarship.

There are approximately 12,000 unaccompanied and/or homeless youth in Clark County, which includes about 700 high school seniors.


"Programs like this are a vital part of giving students a hand up, not a handout while supporting their dreams of a college education," says Richard Clark. "Our vision is that this program will help break the cycle of poverty and open doors for many more students in the future."

*The HOPE Scholars Program was funded, in part, through an online Rebel Raiser campaign.*

**rebel raiser** is UNLV's  
new crowdfunding tool

it has raised

**\$15,000<sup>+</sup>**  
for Project HOPE



"I got help getting  
into UNLV without  
worrying about  
where I was  
going to live..."

over

**\$63,000**

has been raised  
for 9 projects

first-time donors to  
this effort total

**161**



"I have always  
been searching  
for avenues to  
better the  
community  
that I live in."

community **involvement**

**54** total Engelstad Scholars  
in 2015-16

# potential tapped

For then-incoming freshman Fadi Azar, Biology '19, it was down to two schools: UNLV or UCLA.

A meeting with UNLV's financial aid and scholarships office helped nudge him over to UNLV. It was then that he learned that he was eligible for the prestigious President's Scholarship, which covers the cost of attendance and a semester abroad for National Merit Finalists like him.

"Considering how much college costs, no one else could really match that," says Azar of the scholarship.

But it wasn't just the President's Scholarship that grabbed Azar's attention. It was the potential of attending UNLV's Honors College and the way it could align with his values. Azar also qualified to become part of the Engelstad Scholars Program at UNLV that allowed him to continue pursuing one of his passions: serving his community.

"The Engelstad Scholars Program would provide me with the gateway that I had been searching for to continue to serve the community while I was in college," Azar says.

Engelstad Scholars are expected to complete 100 hours of community service, a milestone Azar had already accomplished by the time he committed to UNLV and enrolled in the Honors College. While a student at Durango High School in Las Vegas, he served as president of the national honor society and did volunteer work for a church group.

"Ever since I was a young child, I have always been searching for avenues to better the community that I live in. I firmly believe that in order to change the world, you must start with changing the lives of those in your immediate vicinity."

Engelstad Scholars  
contributed

**3,000+**  
hours of service

**15** community organizations  
are partners with  
the program

# personal experience

A lot of immigrant families could use a helping hand. But for many, asking for help simply isn't an option.

Claudia Mejia knows. She grew up in an immigrant family in Texas; her Mexican parents wore their resiliency with pride.

"In many cultures, people are taught that asking for help is a last resort," Mejia says. "I want to show that you don't have to wait until situations are unbearable. Voicing concerns and accepting help from others can lead to major change."

"I hope that my personal experience will let people know I do understand," she adds. "I was there."

Today, Mejia is a post-doctoral fellow at The PRACTICE, where she works with Spanish-speaking children and families to help them share their feelings, frustrations, and fears. The PRACTICE (an acronym for Partnership for Research, Assessment, Counseling, Therapy and Innovative Clinical Education) is an on-campus clinic that is a collaboration between the Colleges and Education and Liberal Arts.

Mejia's fellowship is funded by a gift from the Eleanor Kagi Foundation, A Lynn M. Bennett Legacy. It is one of two post-doctoral fellowships created to address acute mental health challenges in our community.

In 2014, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services ranked mental health as the highest need in the state, outranking family support, food security, and education. Despite tremendous demand, Nevada has only 13 psychologists per 100,000 residents.


"The Kagi Foundation fellows provide invaluable services to people who have nowhere else to turn," says Michelle Paul, director of The PRACTICE and associate director of clinical training in UNLV's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program.

"Every child, every parent, every individual who they help has a family, and an even wider circle of colleagues whose well-being is improved."

*The Eleanor Kagi Foundation, A Lynn M. Bennett Legacy, is a 2016 UNLV Foundation Palladium Award honoree.*

The **palladium society**  
honors lifetime giving to UNLV


**\$1mil** is the threshold  
for membership



"I hope that my  
personal experience  
will let people know  
I do understand."

the society has **100+**  
members

2 members have  
exceeded **\$25mil** in lifetime giving



"This was  
one of the  
greatest  
thrills of  
my life."

**estate &  
planned** gifts

unlv. **planmylegacy.org**  
is a site where you can find more information

# inspired living

Mary Guinan, Ph.D., M.D.'s dream to travel to outer space helped propel her into a career as a doctor in public health, where she has helped to save tens of thousands of people from polio, HIV, and other communicable diseases.

Inspired by the race to the moon announced by President Kennedy in 1961, she applied and was accepted to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. This was only possible because a donor had specified that the university should admit women into the all-male program – and offered to help with scholarships.

Dr. Guinan recalls, “This was one of the greatest thrills of my life.”

To know Dr. Guinan at all is to be humbled by the enormity of her appreciation for the scholarship. The gift made a lasting impression in a life that has never been short on once-in-a-lifetime thrills, from riding an elephant across the back country of India, to traveling war-torn Afghanistan and Lebanon at the height of the cold war.

Dr. Guinan compiled these and other stories in her new book, *Adventures of a Female Medical Detective in Pursuit of Smallpox and AIDS*.

Her scholarship inspired Dr. Guinan many years later to support students and faculty at the School of Community Health Sciences at UNLV, which she helped to establish as the founding dean. Her estate plan includes a gift to the school that will fund its first endowed professorship, the Mary Guinan Endowed Professor of Epidemiology. She is also funding stipends for students doing field work in public health, and is donating proceeds from her book to the school.

Dr. Guinan's tales are a testament to a life well lived. Her estate gift will ensure that future generations of UNLV students will have the same opportunities to triumph.

the **heritage circle** recognizes donors  
who make deferred gifts to UNLV through wills or estate plans

there are currently

**80**<sup>+</sup>  
Heritage Circle  
members

# a student first

Runnin' Rebel Dwayne Morgan knows that the "student" in student-athlete comes first for a reason.

Wins on the court are what Morgan trains for every day, but success in the classroom is essential to staying in the game.

The academic success of UNLV student-athletes is a force that powers the philanthropy of Rebel fan extraordinaire Hope Anstett. She and her late husband, Joe, were founding members of the Runnin' Rebel Basketball Club and have supported UNLV student-athletes ever since. They shared the belief that education is a stepping stone to success. They knew it was important to encourage student-athletes to achieve not only competitively, but academically as well.

The study room in the Mendenhall Center, where the Runnin' Rebels train, is named in their honor.

Thanks in part to services provided by UNLV's student-athlete academic services office, Rebel athletes have some great stats to post. A 2015-16 report shows that they had a 78% graduation success rate; 50% attained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. And 170 student-athletes were named to the UNLV Dean's Honor List.

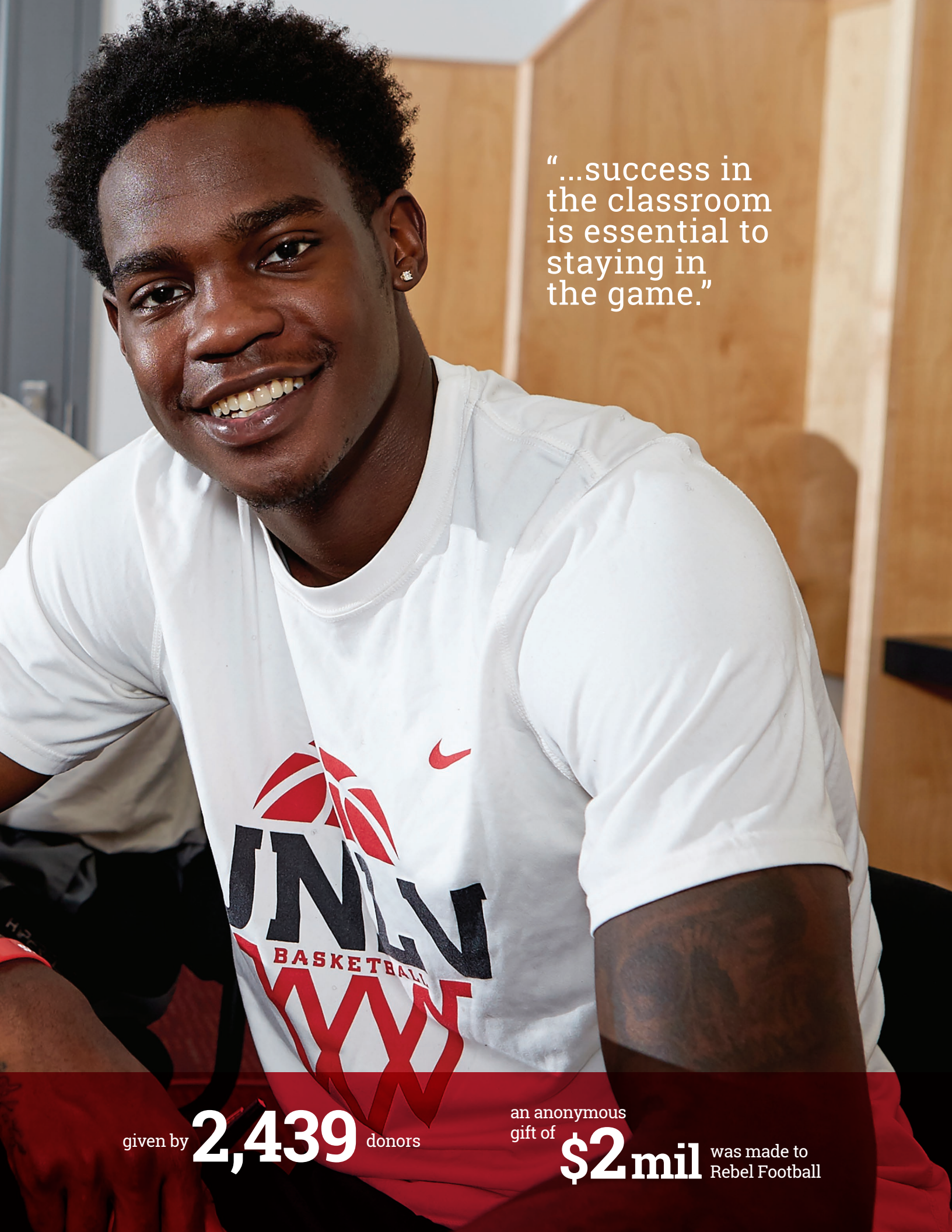
Athletic academic advisor Kimberly Stewart, who works with women Rebels and is a former student-athlete herself, understands the power that sports training combined with academic rigor can unleash.

"I see students come to college as kids and graduate as adults," she says. "If you can get through college as a student-athlete, you're prepared to handle life!"

*Hope Anstett is a 2016 UNLV Foundation Palladium Award honoree.*

**athletic**  
gifts

**\$10.8<sup>+</sup>mil** was recorded in gifts  
& pledges to athletics



“...success in  
the classroom  
is essential to  
staying in  
the game.”

given by **2,439** donors

an anonymous  
gift of

**\$2mil** was made to  
Rebel Football

# numbers matter

unaudited value UNLV  
endowments (as of 6/30/16)

\$235.4<sup>+</sup>mil

total gifts + pledges over  
the past two fiscal years

\$150<sup>+</sup>mil

total gifts +  
pledges in FY 16

\$75.3<sup>+</sup>mil

10,000<sup>+</sup> private donors

total gifts + pledges for  
campus improvements

\$18.4<sup>+</sup>mil

total gifts + pledges  
for athletics

\$10.8<sup>+</sup>mil

## gaining recognition

### 2016 CASE Awards

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) each year recognizes best practices in advancement and outstanding people who contribute to the growth and understanding of the advancement profession.

#### National Overall Educational Fundraising Award

Public Research/Doctoral Institutions with Endowments Under \$250 Million

#### National Circle of Excellence Silver/Targeted Campaign

UNLV School of Medicine's "60 x 16 Founding Scholarship Campaign Drive" raised \$13.5 million to fund 135 scholarships in less than 60 days—far exceeding its goal of \$6 million.

#### CASE District VII Circle of Excellence Bronze/Best Practices in Fundraising Campaigns

UNLV Annual Fund branding campaign "Flexible. Personal. Vital."

joining the  
club

80<sup>+</sup>

Heritage Circle  
members

100<sup>+</sup>

Palladium Society  
members

85

Rebel Athletics  
Loyalty Circle  
members

65

President's  
Corporate Council  
members

# connections matter

**\$5.7<sup>+</sup>mil** in new scholarship gifts + pledges

**539**

donors to  
scholarships

**\$1.3<sup>+</sup>mil** in Rebel Athletics Loyalty Circle gifts + pledges

**85**

members

**\$63,000<sup>+</sup>** raised via Rebel Raiser

**9**

projects  
funded

**10,000<sup>+</sup>** private donors

**550**

faculty/staff  
donors

**3,000<sup>+</sup>** Engelstad Scholar community service hours

**15**

community  
partners

## contributions matter

Discover how to make your contribution to UNLV matter by visiting  
[unlv.edu/foundation/giving-guide](http://unlv.edu/foundation/giving-guide)

did you  
know?

**24%**

of gifts support  
construction

**48%**

of donors  
are alumni

**60%**

of donors donate  
\$100 or less

# UNLV | FOUNDATION

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