



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

87th Session, 2019-2020

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AB216 – ESTABLISHING A SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE

Resolution Number: 54

Authored By: Senator Ahmed and Senator Westerman

Sponsored By: 2019-2020 Student Government Assembly

Whereas, AB216 is “an act regarding to higher education, requiring the State Treasurer to establish a database of information relating to sources of funding for higher education, requiring the Attorney General to establish a program to connect victims of certain crimes with the database”;¹

Whereas, the database created must include “a list of any program, scholarship, grant, student loan or other form of financial assistance for individuals seeking to pursue higher education”;¹

Whereas, a 2014 study found that federal grant aid increased low-income student’s graduation rates by 2.52-2.82% for every \$1,000 in additional aid, and state need-based grants increased the chances of graduating by 2.4-2.59% for every \$1,000 in additional aid;²

Whereas, a 2016 study that took place in the University of Wisconsin System across 13 public universities concluded that offering increased grant aid to low income students increases the chances of students graduating with a degree in four years;³

¹ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6377/Overview>

² <http://www.aera.net/Newsroom/Recent-AERA-Research/Toward-the-Education-Nation-Revisiting-the-Impact-of-Financial-Aid-College-Experience-and-Institutional-Context-on-Baccalaureate-Degree-Attainment-for-Low-Income-Students>

³ <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/685442-51.htm>

Whereas, research conducted by ACT in 2017 found that among first generation Hispanic college students, students who received financial aid were much more likely to persist from their first to second year in college compared to first generation Hispanic college students who did not receive financial aid (78% vs. 60%);⁴

Whereas, the United States Census Bureau estimated that, as of 2010, 26.5% of people living in Nevada were Hispanic or Latino, and that, of the under-18 population 39.4% are Hispanic;⁵

Whereas, according to Nevada's 2010 Diversity Report conducted by the Nevada System of Higher Education, only 13% of Hispanic adults had a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 31.4% of non-Hispanic whites;⁶

Whereas, the Center for Student Engagement at the University of Nevada, Reno's 2018 annual report found that 19.5% of our University's students are Hispanic/Latino, making up over half of all underrepresented students at the University;⁷

Whereas, the Hispanic population makes up a large percentage of both Nevada's current and future workforce and increased degree completion among both this population and others will, in turn, positively impact Nevada's future workforce and economy;

Whereas, creation of a Nevada scholarship database would better connect low-income and traditionally minoritized students to more financial aid opportunities, thereby increasing their rates of graduation and bachelor's degree completion;

Whereas, AB216 would also require the Attorney General to create an outreach program for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking within said database created by the State Treasurer;⁸

Whereas, "1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner";⁹

⁴ <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED592754.pdf>

⁵ https://nshe.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/NSHE-1-HSI-Hispanic-Students-in-Nevada-Public-Higher-Education-9_28_12.pdf

⁶ https://ir.nevada.edu/documents/diversity/Diversity_Report_2009_10.pdf

⁷ <https://www.unr.edu/Documents/student-services/cultural-diversity/annual-reports/TheCenterAnnualReport2018.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bill/6377/Overview>

⁹ <https://www.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/nevada.pdf>

Whereas, Nevada is currently one of the top 5 states for the highest rates of domestic violence in the United States;¹⁰

Whereas, in the University of Nevada, Reno's 2016 Sexual Conduct & Campus Safety Survey 18% of participating students reported that they had experienced physical abuse such as physical force, such as hitting or beating, with a person they were dating, and 41% reported they had experienced emotional abuse such as their partner yelling or swearing at them and/or intentionally withholding affection from them;¹¹

Whereas, lack of education is a risk factor for increased domestic violence, and not having a college education, and additionally "it has been noted that women with less education experience domestic violence at higher rates than women who have achieved a higher level of education";¹²

Whereas, it is common for domestic abuse to prevent the victim from obtaining or accessing education as easy as those who are not victims of domestic abuse;¹²

Whereas, the establishment of an outreach program can help victims get the help they need to obtain an education in a more affordable manner with the help of the scholarship database;

Be it resolved that, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada support AB216;

Be it further resolved that, this resolution be sent to Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro and Governor Steve Sisolak.

Adopted in Senate on May 15th, 2019

Attest:

Frida Urena, Secretary of the Senate

Savannah Hughes, Speaker of the Senate

¹⁰ <https://www.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/nevada.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.unr.edu/Documents/student-services/student-services/Sexual%20Conduct%20and%20Campus%20Safety%202016%20Main%20Findings%20and%20Recommendations.pdf>

¹² <http://criminal-justice.iresearchnet.com/crime/domestic-violence/education/>