

Teacher Preparation in Nevada



Report to the NSHE Board of Regents

Fall 2011



Topics

- Teachers prepared by NSHE
- Evidence of quality
- Impact of budget cuts and College reorganization
- Important Initiatives:
 - K-12 Common Core State Standards
 - Math and other initiatives
 - Exceptional and English learners
 - Growing our own teachers

Preparation Programs

- Teachers prepared at Undergraduate and Post-baccalaureate levels at— UNR ♦ UNLV ♦ GBC ♦ NSC
- Articulated 2-year programs and/or paraprofessional programs at— TMCC ♦ WNC ♦ CSN



Program Completers

Students who have completed a teacher licensing program. Includes bachelor's and post-bac licensure programs.

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
UNLV	412	423	413
UNR	204	185	199
GBC	28	19	20
NSC	33	31	61
TOTAL	677	658	693

Since 2004 we have seen a 14% decline in individuals getting teaching licenses in NSHE programs.

Source: IPEDS NSHE institutions for number of program completers

Quality Characteristics:

	Praxis I			Praxis II
	Reading	Writing	Math	Subject Area Tests
UNLV	100%	99%	99%	91%
UNR	99%	99%	100%	95%
GBC	100%	100%	100%	98%
NSC	81%	83%	84%	95%





Quality Characteristics:

- Articulation agreements among 2 year & 4 year programs
- Use of evidence-based practices
- Sustained and mentored field experiences
- Strong content preparation
- Emphasis on diverse learners, including English learners & students with disabilities
- National leadership in research and outreach

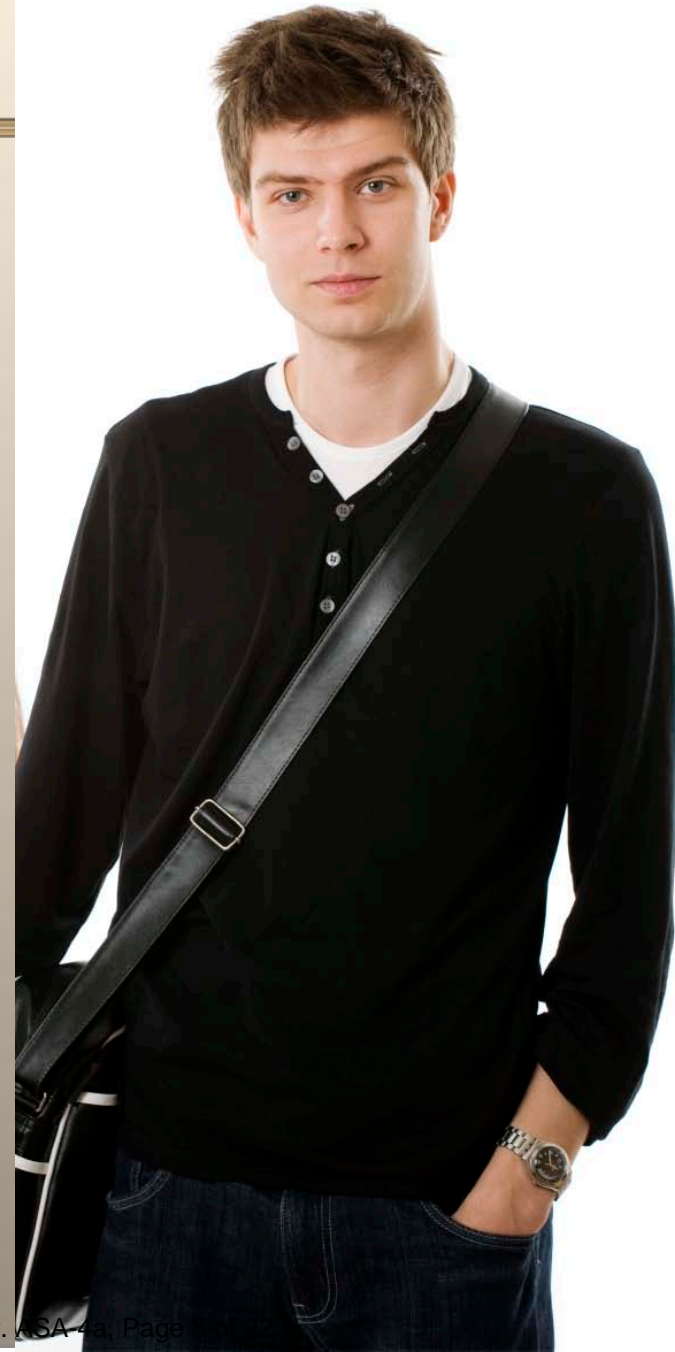


However,

recent budget cuts have taken a significant toll on programs, opportunities, and morale.

Impact of Budget Cuts

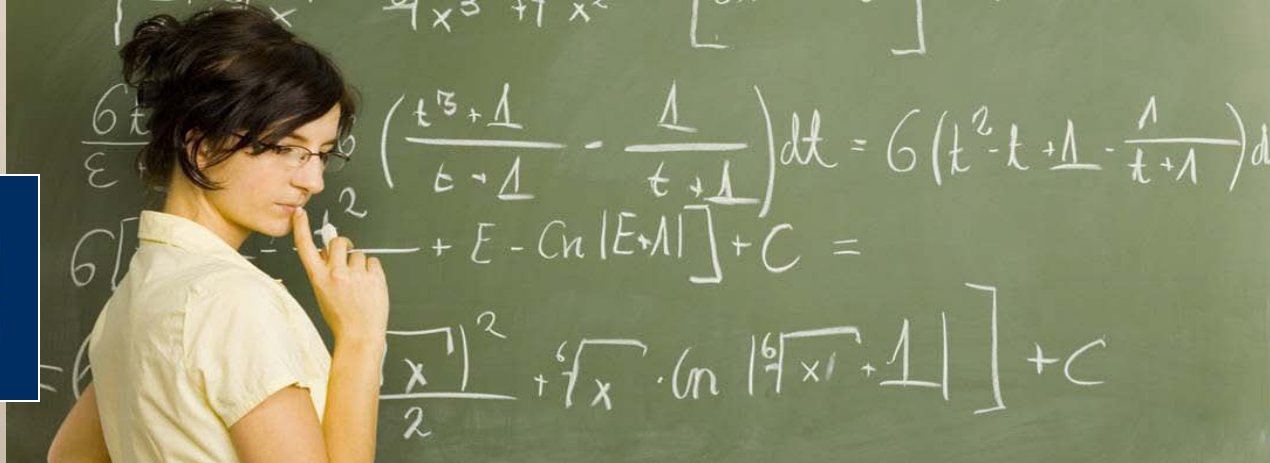
- Teacher salaries and working conditions mean we cannot attract 'best and brightest' students
- Fewer low income students will become teachers due to higher tuition
- Less infrastructure to support teaching, technology, grants, & research
- Fewer graduate programs





Impact of Budget Cuts

- Loss of productive young faculty
- Difficulty recruiting new faculty
- Less research and fewer grants to push our understandings of educational issues
- Less expert outreach to Nevada schools and professional associations
- Reduced status for our university system



UNR: Reorganization & Impact

- College is now a unit with no departments and little administrative infrastructure
- Tenured faculty from 53 (2008) to 40 (2011); lost 4 staff
- Closure of TESOL and School Psych grad programs
- Loss of doctoral emphasis in counseling
- Redesign of undergraduate programs was a positive outcome

UNLV: Reorganization & Impact

- Budget cut by \$4 million
- Closure or relocation of programs: SEL (closed), EDA, EDL, EDH, EDW
- College went from 6 to 3 departments
- Tenured faculty from 120 to 80
- Reorganization was a faculty-driven process



NSC: Impact of Budget Cuts:

- 4.5 faculty members serve all pre-admitted & admitted students
- Increased advising loads
- Loss of staff
- Assistant Dean resigned & left NSHE
- Heavy reliance on part-time instructors

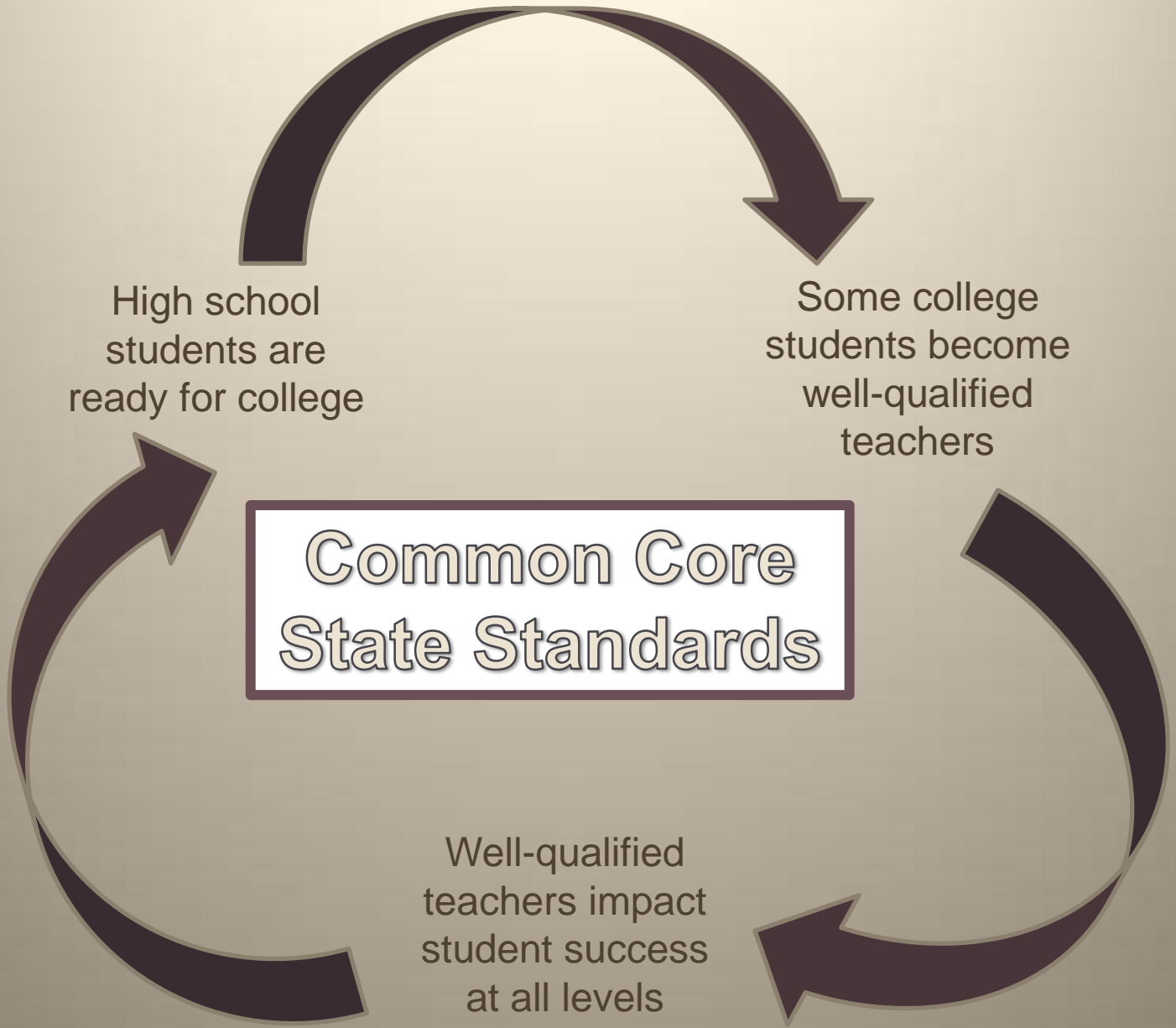


Despite the cuts and other barriers, NSHE teacher preparation programs are undertaking important initiatives:

Common Core State Standards

- In full effect 2013-2014 school year
- Planned state roll-out with assessments
- NSHE faculty involved on Nevada CCSS committees
- Began infusing CCSS into curriculum in fall 2011







Implications of CCSS:

- Elementary teachers will need deeper preparation in math
- Emphasis on reasoning and sense-making in mathematics
- Emphasis on oral language and writing
- Reading and analysis in content and technical areas
- Practical application of skills

Our programs are responding to these challenges

Math Endorsements:

- All 4-yr. programs offer degrees in secondary education with math majors or concentrations
- UNLV & the SRPDP offer “certificate” in math for elementary and middle teachers. UNR is collaborating with NWRPDP on a similar program
- CSN - has math minor that can be an endorsement– A.S. in Mathematics
- GBC - elementary majors have a concentration. Math is one option
- UNR - raised level of math for elementary teachers to Math 127. Electives in math education are available



STEM Initiatives:

- Federal and state grant-funded projects (UNR, UNLV)
- Post-graduate or in-service programs (UNLV, UNR)
- Tuition support from Harry Reid Congressionally directed grant fund (NSC)
- Collaboration with schools (all NSHE institutions)



English Learners

- ESL coursework & field experiences required at all 4-year institutions
- Full ESL endorsement at all 4-year institutions
- NSC- all elementary majors receive ESL endorsement
- Bilingual endorsement available at NSC





Exceptional Learners

- Exceptional learner courses are required for all teachers at all 4-year institutions
- Special education teacher preparation available at all 4-year institutions
- All students learn about the range of learning abilities and differentiation of instruction



Growing Our Own

Career ladders from high school - to
community colleges - to 4-year
programs in Clark and Washoe

NSHE Teacher Preparation Programs are dedicated to providing a well-prepared, high-quality and creative teacher corps; and to helping to find answers to Nevada's educational challenges.

We thank the Regents for their advocacy and support for teacher preparation.

