

Nevada**\$372,649 in Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG) awarded to 519 students****\$674,706 in National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants awarded to 218 students**

For ACG and National SMART Grants, students must 1) apply for financial aid by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be determined to be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant; 2) be a U.S. citizen; 3) be enrolled in a two- or four-year degree program; and 4) be enrolled full-time.

The following are Nevada's pre-approved rigorous high school programs of study students must complete to earn an Academic Competitiveness Grant:

- The Nevada Advanced Diploma;
- A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative;
- Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores.

For more information about these programs visit:
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/smart/performance.html>

**STUDENTS SHOULD SELF-IDENTIFY ON THE FAFSA THAT
THEY TOOK ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS**

Academic Competitiveness and National SMART Grants were created in 2006 as part of the President's American Competitiveness initiative. Congress appropriated \$4.5 billion for the programs between 2006 and 2011.

Last year, the Department of Education set a goal to double the number of students receiving ACG and National SMART Grants by 2010-11. States, colleges, and high schools should promote ACG and National SMART Grants because completing a rigorous high school program is the best way to increase college readiness, reduce remediation, and increase college completion rates for low-income students. Increased postsecondary attainment will help the United States compete in the 21st century.

In addition to the Pell Grant amount, up to \$750 will be awarded to eligible first-year ACG students, and up to \$1,300 to second-year ACG students. Up to \$4,000 will be awarded to eligible National SMART Grant students for each year, in addition to the Pell Grant funds. *Colleges and universities should package these grants with the other aid, including state and institutional awards, to provide low-income students an early commitment that if they complete high school and take challenging courses, college expenses can be fully paid.*



| Top five schools in Nevada with the highest number of ACG recipients: | |
|---|-----|
| 1. University of Nevada - Reno | 209 |
| 2. University of Nevada - Las Vegas | 192 |
| 3. Art Institute of Las Vegas | 59 |
| 4. Nevada State College | 16 |
| 5. Truckee Meadows Community College | 15 |

| Top five schools in Nevada with the highest number of National SMART Grant recipients: | |
|--|-----|
| 1. University of Nevada - Reno | 107 |
| 2. University of Nevada - Las Vegas | 98 |
| 3. Art Institute of Las Vegas | 9 |
| 4. Great Basin College | 3 |
| 5. Sierra Nevada College | 1 |

| Nevada's Top National SMART Grant majors: | Top Foreign Languages: |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Biological and Biomedical Sciences | 1. N/A |
| 2. Engineering | 2. N/A |
| 3. Multi-Interdisciplinary Studies | 3. N/A |

The effort in the second year of implementation can be improved upon going forward. To do this, high school and postsecondary personnel, state policymakers, and access advocates should:

- 1. Know your state's approved programs of rigorous study.**
- 2. Accept the challenge to double the number of students in Nevada receiving ACG and National SMART Grants by 2010-11.**
- 3. Advocate for low-income students' access to rigorous, college preparatory classes, and pursuit of high-demand, high-wage majors in the National SMART Grant program.**

Under the ACG program regulations, institutions only have to review the eligibility of a student that has self-identified on the FAFSA as having taken an approved rigorous course of study in high school. Therefore, it is important that your high school students know which approved course of study they've completed and indicate it on the FAFSA. Institutions should consider reviewing the eligibility of all Pell Grant recipients for Academic Competitiveness Grants.



| STATE | ACG Program | | SMART Grant Program | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | RECIPIENTS | TOTAL DISBURSED | RECIPIENTS | TOTAL DISBURSED |
| Alabama | 5,736 | \$3,887,614 | 899 | \$2,562,263 |
| Alaska | 189 | \$143,934 | 101 | \$269,537 |
| Arizona | 3,072 | \$2,180,226 | 2,486 | \$7,046,186 |
| Arkansas | 4,645 | \$3,477,082 | 449 | \$1,323,674 |
| California | 40,307 | \$29,694,652 | 7,907 | \$22,823,924 |
| Colorado | 3,983 | \$2,981,254 | 1,575 | \$4,620,619 |
| Connecticut | 3,271 | \$2,489,464 | 342 | \$1,078,891 |
| Delaware | 610 | \$402,369 | 71 | \$233,050 |
| District of Columbia | 1,352 | \$1,230,405 | 152 | \$519,633 |
| Florida | 21,653 | \$15,026,439 | 3,197 | \$8,606,876 |
| Georgia | 12,450 | \$9,076,329 | 1,768 | \$4,939,979 |
| Hawaii | 568 | \$434,125 | 216 | \$675,633 |
| Idaho | 2,723 | \$1,845,284 | 1,176 | \$3,540,007 |
| Illinois | 13,771 | \$10,399,898 | 3,058 | \$9,340,091 |
| Indiana | 12,355 | \$8,816,812 | 1,340 | \$3,919,718 |
| Iowa | 6,247 | \$4,813,979 | 885 | \$2,727,962 |
| Kansas | 3,783 | \$2,971,759 | 770 | \$2,310,710 |
| Kentucky | 7,755 | \$5,414,629 | 820 | \$2,389,337 |
| Louisiana | 7,672 | \$5,597,922 | 826 | \$2,314,207 |
| Maine | 2,347 | \$1,794,373 | 305 | \$961,446 |
| Maryland | 4,821 | \$3,565,998 | 658 | \$1,997,307 |
| Massachusetts | 10,738 | \$8,967,374 | 1,490 | \$4,991,885 |
| Michigan | 9,375 | \$7,265,297 | 2,302 | \$6,868,110 |
| Minnesota | 7,815 | \$6,092,198 | 1,172 | \$3,543,533 |
| Mississippi | 5,898 | \$4,278,167 | 562 | \$1,725,038 |
| Missouri | 7,681 | \$5,705,347 | 1,264 | \$3,856,810 |
| Montana | 1,235 | \$940,998 | 408 | \$1,123,802 |
| Nebraska | 3,865 | \$2,966,312 | 375 | \$1,168,524 |
| Nevada | 519 | \$372,649 | 218 | \$674,706 |
| New Hampshire | 2,358 | \$1,542,001 | 173 | \$585,320 |
| New Jersey | 6,322 | \$4,930,855 | 943 | \$2,932,274 |
| New Mexico | 1,931 | \$1,275,077 | 412 | \$1,086,477 |
| New York | 33,093 | \$24,920,183 | 5,057 | \$14,161,709 |
| North Carolina | 14,772 | \$10,748,150 | 1,380 | \$4,288,717 |
| North Dakota | 1,654 | \$1,255,626 | 222 | \$652,882 |
| Ohio | 19,667 | \$14,298,474 | 1,928 | \$5,442,007 |
| Oklahoma | 5,864 | \$4,244,069 | 1,026 | \$2,947,474 |
| Oregon | 3,166 | \$2,361,091 | 1,162 | \$3,279,059 |
| Pennsylvania | 23,063 | \$18,419,038 | 3,112 | \$9,925,204 |
| Rhode Island | 2,401 | \$1,790,932 | 173 | \$550,002 |
| South Carolina | 8,078 | \$6,172,837 | 758 | \$2,356,832 |
| South Dakota | 1,803 | \$1,458,431 | 400 | \$1,246,577 |
| Tennessee | 9,267 | \$6,675,111 | 1,107 | \$3,290,043 |
| Texas | 35,513 | \$24,685,786 | 3,551 | \$10,635,484 |
| Utah | 1,345 | \$1,048,705 | 3,248 | \$9,987,403 |
| Vermont | 1,279 | \$1,018,743 | 226 | \$706,289 |
| Virginia | 7,092 | \$5,374,254 | 1,091 | \$3,309,622 |
| Washington | 4,767 | \$3,663,900 | 1,615 | \$4,554,368 |
| West Virginia | 2,501 | \$1,887,660 | 463 | \$1,416,543 |
| Wisconsin | 8,444 | \$6,640,547 | 1,208 | \$3,750,400 |
| Wyoming | 556 | \$360,552 | 73 | \$216,566 |
| Total: | 401,372 | \$297,604,911 | 66,120 | \$195,474,710 |



06/07 to 07/08 Percentage Change in AC and SMART Grant
Recipients and Funds Disbursed

| STATE | ACG Program | | SMART Grant Program | |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | RECIPIENTS | TOTAL DISBURSED | RECIPIENTS | TOTAL DISBURSED |
| Alabama | 55% | 37% | -11% | -17% |
| Alaska | 215% | 232% | 60% | 32% |
| Arizona | 112% | 99% | 1% | -7% |
| Arkansas | 15% | 13% | -9% | -11% |
| California | 35% | 27% | 10% | 1% |
| Colorado | 34% | 29% | 15% | 5% |
| Connecticut | 78% | 63% | 17% | 12% |
| Delaware | 161% | 128% | 34% | 28% |
| District of Columbia | 25% | 28% | 14% | 7% |
| Florida | 33% | 26% | 21% | 6% |
| Georgia | 27% | 22% | 14% | 0% |
| Hawaii | 65% | 88% | 6% | 4% |
| Idaho | 42% | 25% | 8% | -1% |
| Illinois | 47% | 40% | 13% | 4% |
| Indiana | 45% | 32% | 10% | 5% |
| Iowa | 44% | 34% | 6% | 1% |
| Kansas | 26% | 21% | 12% | 9% |
| Kentucky | 43% | 32% | -1% | -12% |
| Louisiana | 19% | 16% | -13% | -24% |
| Maine | 39% | 31% | 34% | 22% |
| Maryland | 39% | 30% | 13% | 1% |
| Massachusetts | 27% | 25% | 12% | 5% |
| Michigan | 45% | 37% | 11% | 4% |
| Minnesota | 40% | 32% | 11% | 2% |
| Mississippi | 51% | 44% | 3% | 0% |
| Missouri | 44% | 34% | 9% | 4% |
| Montana | 23% | 20% | 6% | -10% |
| Nebraska | 26% | 21% | 2% | 3% |
| Nevada | -1% | -4% | 7% | 12% |
| New Hampshire | 97% | 53% | -11% | -13% |
| New Jersey | 8% | 18% | 13% | 3% |
| New Mexico | 78% | 60% | -17% | -25% |
| New York | 33% | 25% | 20% | 8% |
| North Carolina | 28% | 21% | 5% | -1% |
| North Dakota | 22% | 19% | -30% | -34% |
| Ohio | 36% | 29% | 3% | -7% |
| Oklahoma | 23% | 19% | 6% | 0% |
| Oregon | 37% | 29% | 5% | -4% |
| Pennsylvania | 22% | 23% | 9% | 4% |
| Rhode Island | 25% | 10% | -1% | -14% |
| South Carolina | 48% | 43% | 8% | 3% |
| South Dakota | 27% | 27% | 18% | 14% |
| Tennessee | 38% | 31% | 7% | -2% |
| Texas | 28% | 22% | 17% | 7% |
| Utah | 81% | 71% | -6% | -12% |
| Vermont | 43% | 35% | 59% | 38% |
| Virginia | 18% | 15% | 12% | 2% |
| Washington | 42% | 35% | 3% | -6% |
| West Virginia | 21% | 10% | -2% | -9% |
| Wisconsin | 40% | 35% | 7% | 2% |
| Wyoming | 58% | 40% | -13% | -16% |
| United States | 28% | 34% | 0% | 8% |

