UNLV
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

May 6, 2002

Dear Colleague:

For the past twenty-three years the Office of Institutional Analysis and Planning at UNLV has produced Selected Institutional Characteristics. This document contains valuable information that is crucial to the university's planning process and internal decision-making. It also makes information available to the University and Community College System of Nevada, to various state agencies, and to a variety of groups throughout the United States.

The Office of Institutional Analysis and Planning has the difficult task of collecting an enormous amount of information and summarizing it in a clear, useful manner. The individuals in that office have done a superb job in completing this difficult task. The information is available in this document and on the Office of Institutional Analysis's web site.

Each year, the reports are refined in response to questions and suggestions from users. I encourage you to share any comments and suggestions you may have with the individuals in the Office of Institutional Analysis.

I think the Office of Institutional Analysis has done an excellent job in producing this year's edition of Selected Institutional Characteristics. I am confident that you will agree.

Sincerely,

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am pleased to present you with our 23rd annual fact book, *Selected Institutional Characteristics*. In addition to other reports, you will find our past five fact books at http://ir.unlv.edu.

The purpose of the fact book is to improve the quality and accessibility of information about the university by providing historically comparable, accurate, and relevant data. The highlights, tables, and graphics are designed to give the reader a better understanding of the most frequently requested statistical information about UNLV.

Past responses to the fact book demonstrate a variety of applications. The fact book is used as a source document in the self-study processes for internal program review and accreditation. It is most widely used by department chairs, committees, and campus administrators for resource acquisition, planning, assessment, and decision-making. Our readers tell us that the fact book is providing useful and relevant information to them and that we should increase awareness of the fact book and its uses among all UNLV employees.

Not surprisingly, we find that the usefulness of the fact book depends to a large extent on the comments we receive from our readers. Many of the modifications that you see in the fact book are a direct result of requests made by faculty and administrators. In fact, the early release of the fact book pages in an electronic format, before the bound version becomes available, is a direct result of reader suggestions.

A number of individuals have contributed to producing this document. I would especially like to thank Kathy Adams (financial information); John Hobbes (cover design); Paul Kurzynowski (publication arrangements); Dave Melton (graphics); our programmer analyst, Christina Drum (selected tables, analysis, graphics and editing); our systems analyst, Mike Ellison (selected studies, software problem solving); our student research assistant, Mariam Bakhtary (data collection, data entry, graphics and page layout); and the institutional research staff at other universities whose fact books have inspired us.

Finally, I would like to express my continuing gratitude to my Senior Analyst, Diane Muntal. Her countless hours of planning, research, coordinating and editing have resulted in each of the 23 fact books being better than the one before it. I hope you find, as I have, that her efforts, have resulted in a publication that increases in quality and utility each year.

Kari Coburn
Director
Office of Institutional Analysis and Planning
May 2002

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