

ACTUARIAL VALUATION
OF THE
NEVADA PREPAID TUITION PROGRAM

JUNE 30, 2006

By:

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

This report presents the results of the actuarial valuation of the Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program as of June 30, 2006.

Purpose

The main purposes of this report are:

- to calculate the actuarial present value of the obligations for prepaid tuition contracts purchased through June 30, 2006 and compare the value of those obligations with the assets in the Fund as of that date;
- to review the experience and changes in the actuarial assumptions and methods during the last year and indicate their effects on the results; and
- to set forth the basis for the actuarial assumptions and methods utilized in those calculations.

The results contained in this report are based on contract data and preliminary financial statements provided by the Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program. We have relied on this data in preparing this report.

Certification

Based on the following, the Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program has sufficient assets, including the value of future installment payments, to cover the actuarially estimated value of the tuition obligations under all contracts outstanding as of the valuation date. This determination has been based on reasonable actuarial assumptions that represent the Program's best estimate of anticipated experience under the Prepaid Tuition Program

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taking into account past experience and future expectations. Since the results of the valuation are dependent on the actuarial assumptions used, actual results can be expected to deviate from the figures indicated in this report to the extent that future experience differs from those assumptions.

This report was prepared exclusively for the Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program for a specific and limited purpose. It is a complex, technical analysis that assumes a high level of knowledge concerning the Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program's operations, and uses the Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program's data, which Milliman has not audited. It is not for the use or benefit of any third party for any purpose. Any third party recipient of Milliman's work product who desires professional guidance should not rely upon Milliman's work product, but should engage qualified professionals for advice appropriate to its own specific needs.

Background

Chapter 353B of the Nevada Revised Statutes created the Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program to help families save for the cost of higher education. The Act created the Nevada Higher Education Tuition Trust Fund Board of Trustees (the "Board"). Section 353B.090 stated "The board shall develop a program for the prepayment of tuition at a guaranteed rate which is established based on the annual actuarial study required pursuant to NRS 353B.190 for undergraduate studies at a university or community college that is a member of the system."

This Act also created the Nevada Higher Education Tuition Trust Fund (the "Fund"), which consists of payments received pursuant to a prepaid tuition contract, a bequest, endowment or grant from the Federal Government or any other public or private source of money. All income derived from investments in the Fund and gains from a sale or exchange shall be credited to the Fund. Money in the Fund that is not expended during any biennium does not revert to the state general fund at any time.

The Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program offers four plan types; a University Plan providing 120 credit hours (8 semesters) of tuition at a state university, a University Plan providing 60 credit hours (4 semesters) of tuition at a state university, a Community College Plan providing 60 credit hours (4 semesters) of tuition at a state community college, and a Community College Plus University Plan providing 60 credit hours (4 semesters) of tuition at a state community college and 60 upper division level credit hours (4 semesters) of tuition at a state university.

Purchasers are allowed to pay for their contracts by choosing one of three payment options: 1) a single lump sum payment, 2) equal monthly payments until the beneficiary reaches college age, or 3) a five year plan of 60 equal monthly payments.

The purpose of this actuarial valuation is to estimate the obligations of the Prepaid Tuition Program for all future payments associated with Prepaid Contracts purchased as of the valuation date. The value of those obligations is then compared with the Fund Balance to determine the current financial position of the Prepaid Tuition Program.

Statutory Requirements

Section 353B.160(10) states that “if the annual actuarial study performed pursuant to NRS 353B.190 reveals that there is insufficient money to ensure the actuarial soundness of the trust fund, the board shall modify the terms of subsequent prepaid tuition contracts.”

“Actuarially sound” is not a precise concept and there is no generally accepted understanding of the meaning of this phrase within the actuarial profession, especially with respect to Prepaid Tuition Programs. For purposes of this report, we have assumed that the phrase “actuarially sound” when applied to the Fund, means that the Fund has sufficient assets (including the value of future installment payments due under current contracts) to cover the actuarially estimated value of the tuition obligations under those contracts (including any administrative costs associated with those contracts).

We have also interpreted these Sections to require that the actuarial liabilities be evaluated using sound actuarial principles that are generally consistent with the practices and principles widely used for retirement programs. Reference to other programs is necessary because of the innovative nature of a Prepaid Tuition Program. No generally accepted Standard of Practice has evolved within the actuarial profession specifically addressing Prepaid Tuition Programs. We chose the standards applicable to retirement programs because these programs generally provide for payments at some future date where that payment has a high probability of payment at, or close to, some specific age.

Valuation Basis

For retirement programs, the traditional conservative approach to setting actuarial assumptions has been modified over the last 40 years due to the “best estimate” requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”). Moreover, it has been adopted by the Actuarial Standards Board in Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 27 regarding “Selection of Economic Assumptions for Measuring Pension Obligations.”

It is not clear to us from the statute which standard of “actuarial soundness” was contemplated by the legislature. For purposes of this report, we have adopted the “best estimate” approach.

The method for determining the “best estimate” liability for the Program reflects the possible variability of inflation, tuition, and investment returns and the correlation between each of these variables. This methodology is described in the section below, Variability of Results and Valuation Basis.

Investment Policy

The Investment Policy for the Prepaid Tuition Program is determined by the Board and implemented by the State Treasurer. The Investment Policy is important because it sets forth acceptable investment allocations among asset classes. The asset allocation affects the magnitude and variability of investment returns realized and therefore the financial structure of the plan.

For the Valuation, we have assumed that Program investments will be allocated as follows:

US Large Cap Equity	30%
US Mid-Cap Equity	10%
US Small Cap Equity	10%
Fixed Income	50%

Actuarial Assumptions

The actuarial assumptions used to prepare this report are summarized in Appendix C. The two most significant of those assumptions are the rate of investment returns and tuition growth in the future. The Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program Board selected both of these assumptions. They are:

- the investment return assumption of 7.50% per year (this is the same as the investment return assumption used to prepare the prior year's report); and,
- the tuition growth assumptions (this year's assumptions and those used for the previous year's valuation) summarized in the table below.

	<u>Universities</u>	<u>Previous</u>	<u>Community Colleges</u>	<u>Previous</u>
Fall 2007	10.93%	7.50%	4.29%	5.00%
Fall 2008	10.92%	7.50%	4.57%	5.00%
Fall 2009	6.00%	5.75%	4.00%	5.00%
Fall 2010 and later	6.00%	5.75%	4.00%	5.00%

We believe that the Board's 7.50% investment return assumption is somewhat optimistic, but well within what we consider a "reasonable range."

Summary of Results

The actuarial value of the obligations of the Prepaid Tuition Program as of June 30, 2006 is summarized below and compared with the balance in the Fund.

	<u>Present Value of Obligations for Future Payments</u>	<u>Value of Total Fund Assets*</u>	<u>Stabilization Reserve/(Deficit)</u>
<u>Prepaid Tuition Program:</u>			
Tuition Obligations	\$107,247,000	n/a	n/a
Administrative Expenses	<u>711,000</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>
Grand Total	\$107,958,000	\$108,985,350	\$1,027,350

* Total Fund Assets is the sum of the market value of program investments and the present value of installment contract receivables.

The present value of future obligations for Administrative Expenses reflects the expected costs of administering existing contracts until all tuition benefits have been paid and the expenses associated with making those payments. It does not include the future expenses of the Program associated with general overhead and marketing.

As indicated above, the Fund has assets that exceed the best estimate of the obligations by roughly \$1.0 million or 1.0% of obligations. Unfavorable future experience would adversely affect this position. It would be desirable to increase the stabilization reserve over time to provide a cushion against the risk of adverse deviations in tuition and/or investment growth experience.

Actuarial Gain/Loss Analysis

During the 2006 fiscal year, the stabilization reserve/(deficit) position of the Program decreased from a stabilization reserve of \$5,704,298 to a stabilization reserve of \$1,027,350, which is 1.0% of obligations. The decrease is mostly attributable to a change to the tuition growth rate assumptions. Each of the factors affecting the stabilization reserve is discussed below.

The stabilization reserve was expected to grow during the year by \$427,822 due to the passage of time (the obligation is calculated as a present value which grows with interest each year).

During the 2006 fiscal year there were 634 enrollments. Each contract sold contributes to the stabilization reserve. We estimate that \$2.2 million of stabilization reserve was generated by the new contracts resulting in an increase in the stabilization reserve.

In the development of the 2006 fiscal year prices for new contracts, a \$592,628 budget was assumed. Actual administrative expenses paid out of the Trust were approximately \$92,194 resulting in a \$500,434 gain to the stabilization reserve.

The return on Fund investments was approximately 6.3% on a dollar-weighted basis. In the previous valuation, a 7.5% return was assumed. Thus, actual investment returns were 1.2% lower than expected. This decreased the stabilization reserve by \$993,068.

The tuition growth rate assumption was increased for University contracts and decreased for Community College contracts. The change decreased the stabilization reserve by \$7,378,000.

In summary, the stabilization reserve changes due to experience and assumption changes can be summarized as follows:

Stabilization Reserve / (Deficit) as of June 30, 2005	\$5,704,298
Interest on the deficit at 7.5% due to the passage of time	427,822
Addition to stabilization reserve from new contracts	2,174,793
Budget savings	500,434
Investment gain/(loss)	(993,068)
Change in tuition growth assumptions	(7,378,000)
Other	<u>591,071</u>
Stabilization Reserve / (Deficit) as of June 30, 2006	\$1,027,350

Variability of Results and Valuation Basis

The present values of the obligations shown above were based on assumptions that represent an estimate of anticipated experience under the Prepaid Tuition Program that are reasonably related to past educational cost and investment data. Differences between those projections and actual amounts will depend on the extent to which future experience conforms to the assumptions made for this analysis. It is certain that actual experience will not conform exactly to the assumptions used in this analysis. Actual amounts will differ from projected amounts to the extent that actual experience deviates from expected experience.

A prime source of variation will be normal fluctuations that occur in the rate of increase in tuition, investment returns, inflation, etc. One way of estimating the range of possible outcomes is to stochastically model the financial operation of the Program using Monte Carlo techniques. This approach involves preparing 1,000 projections of financial results under randomly derived scenarios of tuition growth and investment returns. Each of these scenarios is based on statistical factors such as standard deviation and correlation that were established by reviewing historical results and then adjusting where appropriate to reflect current conditions.

For each scenario, we determined whether the Fund would run out of money before all tuition and expense obligations were paid. By tabulating the results under all of these projections we estimated the probability of having the assets of the Prepaid Tuition Program exceed its obligations. Note that for this analysis, a scenario where the Fund comes up as little as one dollar short is considered a scenario where Fund assets do not exceed obligations. Also note that we have assumed there are no additional contracts sold and no changes are made to the asset mix throughout the projection period. We have also assumed that all future installment payments will be made.

We have summarized in the table below the results of this process. It is important to understand that these results are only illustrative of the range of results that are possible and are dependent on the assumptions utilized. They do not necessarily represent the "true" probability of future events, which, of course, are unknown. The assumptions are presented in detail in Appendix C.

(Amounts in Millions)

<u>Percentage of "Best Estimate" Reserve</u>	<u>Total Fund Value at June 30, 2006</u>	<u>Probability of Funds Exceeding Obligation</u>
90%	\$97.2	31%
100%	108.0	50%
101%	109.0	51% *
110%	118.8	68%
120%	129.5	81%
130%	140.3	90%
140%	151.1	94%
150%	161.9	97%

*Actual Fund Position

The "Best Estimate" Reserve of \$108.0 million represents the level of assets necessary as of June 30, 2006 to achieve a 50% probability of sufficiency. This includes the present value of Installment Contract Receivables. The actual Fund balance at June 30, 2006 of \$109.0 million is thus 101% of the actuarially determined "Best Estimate" Reserve. As indicated in the above table, this Fund balance is estimated to have a 51% probability of being adequate to satisfy all Program obligations. We believe the 51% figure should be viewed as a risk index. To date the Program has a goal to gradually build a Stabilization Reserve to help absorb the risk of adverse deviations in investment and tuition growth experience. As the Stabilization Reserve grows relative to the Program obligations, we would expect to see this risk index measure improve. We included in the table the probability of sufficiency associated with other funding levels to illustrate the sensitivity of this measure to the level of funding.

Data Reliance

In performing this analysis, we relied on data and other information provided by the Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program. We have not audited or verified this data and other information. If the underlying data or information is inaccurate or incomplete, the results of our analysis may likewise be inaccurate or incomplete.

We performed a limited review of the data used directly in our analysis for reasonableness and consistency and have not found material defects in the data. If there are material defects in the data, it is possible that they would be uncovered by a detailed, systematic review and comparison of the data to search for data values that are questionable or for relationships that are materially inconsistent. Such a review was beyond the scope of our assignment.

Cash Flow Projection

Appendix E shows a cash flow projection based on the actuarial assumptions. The starting Market Value of Investments as of July 1, 2006 is \$88.8 million. At the end of the 2027 Fiscal Year all tuition obligations associated with units already purchased are expected to have been paid, resulting in a residual stabilization reserve of \$10.7 million. Since the actuarial assumptions are intended to represent "best estimates" of future expenses, there is a 50% probability that results will be less favorable than indicated and a 50% probability that results will be more favorable.

We are members of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinion contained herein.

We look forward to reviewing the results of our analyses with you and the Board at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

MILLIMAN, INC.



Alan H. Perry, FSA, CFA
Member American Academy of Actuaries



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Attachments

Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program

I. Statement of Assets as of June 30, 2006

<u>Investments</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
1) Equity	\$51,407,370
2) Fixed Income	<u>37,418,455</u>
Total Market Value of Investments	\$88,825,825
Present Value of Installment Contract Receivables	<u>20,159,525</u>
Value of Total Fund Assets	\$108,985,350

II. Reconciliation of Investments

1) Investments at June 30, 2005	\$76,964,182
2) Contract Purchase Payments	9,564,098
3) Investment Earnings	4,994,751
4) Tuition Payments and Refunds	(2,605,012)
5) Administrative Expense	<u>(92,194)</u>
6) Investments at June 30, 2006	\$ 88,825,825
Dollar-weighted rate of return	6.3%
Time-weighted rate of return	6.4%

Appendix A

Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program

Participant Data as of June 30, 2006

Number of Contracts by Plan Type

Matriculation Year	University Plan (4 yrs)	Community College Plus University Plan	Community College Plan	University Plan (2 yrs)	Total
2002	37	12	3		52
2003	139	26	9		174
2004	249	39	14	7	309
2005	316	36	27	11	390
2006	364	53	30	17	464
2007	430	69	19	16	534
2008	454	64	38	23	579
2009	506	72	28	24	630
2010	550	63	22	23	658
2011	526	66	27	19	638
2012	544	66	28	19	657
2013	573	58	24	17	672
2014	508	54	22	29	613
2015	517	51	31	16	615
2016	566	54	21	21	662
2017	486	47	26	15	574
2018	481	43	17	15	556
2019	395	21	9	9	434
2020	187	26	8	10	231
2021	212	22	15	11	260
2022	184	19	5	9	217
2023	<u>95</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>113</u>
Total	8,319	974	426	313	10,032

Appendix B

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Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program

Summary of Actuarial Assumptions

Economic Assumptions for Simulation Model:

	<u>Inflation</u>	<u>Large Cap</u>	<u>Mid Cap</u>	<u>Small Cap</u>	<u>Fixed Income</u>	<u>University Tuition</u>	<u>Community College Tuition</u>
Expected Arithmetic Annual Return	2.50%	10.30%	11.30%	11.30%	5.40%	6.07%	4.00%
Standard Deviation	3.05	17.10	19.45	22.30	7.50	4.75	5.15
Correlation with:							
Inflation	1.00	-0.19	-0.08	-0.01	-0.28	0.08	-0.04
Large Cap		1.00	0.88	0.79	0.47	0.11	0.49
Mid Cap			1.00	0.95	0.50	0.22	0.56
Small Cap				1.00	0.40	0.31	0.66
Fixed Income					1.00	0.11	0.35
University Tuition						1.00	0.71
Community College Tuition							1.00

Equivalent Deterministic Economic Assumptions:

The assumptions shown below, used deterministically, would produce the same “best estimate” obligation developed by the Simulation Model assumptions shown above and used in the valuation.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation Rate	2.50%, per annum
Investment Returns	7.37%, per annum
University Tuition Growth: Next year	10.93%, per annum
University Tuition Growth: Second year	10.92%, per annum
University Tuition Growth: Thereafter	6.00%, per annum
Community College Tuition Growth: Next Year	4.29%, per annum
Community College Tuition Growth: Second Year	4.57%, per annum
Community College Tuition Growth: Thereafter	4.00%, per annum

Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program

Summary of Actuarial Assumptions

(continued)

Percentage of Contracts Requesting a Refund or Rollover Each Year:

<u>Years Since Enrollment</u>	<u>Extended Payment Contract</u>	<u>60-Payment Contract</u>	<u>Lump Sum Contract</u>
1 - 3	5.00%	3.00%	0.50%
4	3.50%	1.25%	0.50%
5	2.00%	1.20%	0.50%
6 or higher	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%

Expenses:

The expenses included in the present value of future obligations are those relating to:

Annual Maintenance Expense per Contract = \$5.91

Annual Distribution Cost per Contract in Payment Status = \$9.84

A monthly processing expense of \$1.50 has been netted out in calculating the present value of Installment Contract receivables.

Expenses are assumed to increase at a rate equal to CPI + .5%.

Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program

Recent History of Per Credit Hour Tuition in Nevada

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Average Community College Tuition</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>	<u>University Tuition</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
1982-1983	\$17.00		\$31.00	
1983-1984	20.92	23.0%	36.00	16.1%
1984-1985	20.88	-0.2	36.00	0.0
1985-1986	20.88	0.0	36.00	0.0
1986-1987	20.89	0.0	36.00	0.0
1987-1988	21.36	2.3	36.00	0.0
1988-1989	21.35	-0.1	40.00	11.1
1989-1990	21.34	0.0	40.00	0.0
1990-1991	24.00	12.4	46.00	15.0
1991-1992	26.00	8.3	49.00	6.5
1992-1993	28.00	7.7	55.50	13.3
1993-1994	29.50	5.4	55.50	0.0
1994-1995	30.50	3.4	58.00	4.5
1995-1996	33.50	9.8	61.00	5.2
1996-1997	36.50	9.0	64.00	4.9
1997-1998	38.00	4.1	66.50	3.9
1998-1999	39.50	3.9	69.00	3.8
1999-2000	41.00	3.8	71.50	3.6
2000-2001	42.50	3.7	74.00	3.5
2001-2002	44.00	3.5	76.50	3.4
2002-2003	44.50	1.1	79.00	3.3
2003-2004	47.25	6.2	85.00	7.6
2004-2005	49.00	3.7	91.00	7.1
2005-2006	50.75	3.6	98.00	7.7
2006-2007	52.50	3.5	105.25	7.4

Annualized Increase in Tuition

Over last 5 years:	3.6%	6.6%
Over last 10 years:	3.7	5.1
Over last 20 years:	4.7	5.5

Appendix D

Nevada Prepaid Tuition Program

Cash Flow Projection

(\$Millions)

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Monthly Payments</u>	<u>Tuition Benefits</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Investment Income</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
2007	\$88.8	\$5.0	\$4.4	\$0.067	\$6.7	\$96.0
2008	96.0	4.3	6.2	0.073	7.0	101.0
2009	101.1	3.7	7.9	0.078	7.2	103.9
2010	103.9	3.0	9.3	0.083	7.4	104.9
2011	104.9	2.2	9.7	0.078	7.4	104.7
2012	104.7	1.6	10.6	0.078	7.3	102.9
2013	102.9	1.4	11.5	0.077	7.0	99.7
2014	99.7	1.2	12.4	0.076	6.9	95.3
2015	95.3	1.0	12.8	0.074	6.5	89.9
2016	89.9	0.8	13.4	0.070	6.1	83.3
2017	83.3	0.7	14.1	0.067	5.5	75.3
2018	75.3	0.5	14.2	0.063	5.0	66.5
2019	66.5	0.4	14.7	0.059	4.2	56.3
2020	56.3	0.3	14.4	0.055	3.5	45.6
2021	45.6	0.2	12.2	0.049	2.7	36.3
2022	36.3	0.1	10.5	0.039	2.2	28.1
2023	28.1	0.1	8.4	0.030	1.5	21.3
2024	21.3	0.0	6.1	0.021	1.3	16.5
2025	16.5	0.0	4.6	0.012	1.0	12.9
2026	12.9	0.0	2.8	0.008	0.8	10.9
2027	10.9	0.0	1.0	0.003	0.8	10.7

Appendix E

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