I have said many times that we are trying to build a “sticky campus”—one that attracts the best students to the area and keeps them here. New facilities form a path toward a new future for our University. The newly opened Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center combines traditional library resources with the latest in digital and multimedia production technologies, and is designed to foster collaboration, nurture creativity, and stimulate intellectual inquiry. This new facility will change the face of our campus, particularly in the way our students will look at and interact with information and knowledge. I truly believe that of all the university library-type structures built in this country in the last 20 years, this one becomes the exemplar, providing our campus with a wonderful opportunity for the convergence between the historic library, the printed page and technology.

The Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center is named in recognition of a combined $10 million gift from Charles Mathewson and International Game Technology. Many more donors brought this facility to life as well: private donations account for more than $22 million of the $75 million cost of the facility. I cannot thank our donors enough. Their vision and support have provided our campus with a building with a 50- to 100-year reach, a building that will create dialogue that humans must have in order to understand the key intersections between technology, information and knowledge. The remaining funding came from bonds supported by student Capital Improvement Project fees and the state of Nevada. This is altogether fitting, as it is our students who will be challenged to do new things and learn in new ways inside of this facility.

As the pace of innovation and intellectual growth continues to flourish at the University, the Knowledge Center is uniquely positioned as one of the most technologically advanced university libraries in providing students and faculty access to diverse forms of knowledge. For the past 20 years, higher education has grappled with the problem of consolidating the university library with information technology. Almost without exception, this effort has failed. This is not the case at our University. With the opening of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, we have the physical manifestation that this important synergy has occurred on our campus, for the benefit of our students, staff, faculty, friends and community.

Together with the Joe Crowley Student Union, the Mathewson-IGT Center will be a hub of activity for the campus and our community. These new spaces will provide venues for intellectual inquiry as well as transformative lectures and performances to stretch minds.

Come pay these new buildings a visit soon, and experience for yourself the path toward a new future for our University.

Sincerely,

Milton Glick
President
www.unr.edu/president