

Student Success



Photos by Jean Dixon

Renewable Energy Center opens at Redfield Campus

Students and faculty engaged in geothermal, wind, solar, hydrogen and biofuels research have a new laboratory—the University of Nevada, Reno Renewable Energy Center at the Redfield Campus.

Completed in November 2008, the center is one of three new centers in Nevada and part of the Nevada Southwest Energy Partnership funded by a grant from Sen. Harry Reid and managed by the National Renewable Energy Lab. The University has partnered with the Nell J. Redfield Foundation and Ormat Technologies, Inc. to build the laboratory, which

will demonstrate the benefits of transitioning to a cleaner, more secure, more reliable and affordable energy future.

The center is uniquely located in an area with abundant solar and geothermal resources, as well as significant wind energy, according to Ted Batchman, emeritus dean of the College of Engineering and the center's founding director.

“The goal is to develop partnerships with industry, government agencies, University educators and researchers to help Nevada achieve its goal of becoming energy independent and a net exporter of green energy,” he said.

Interim Dean of the College of Engineering, Manos Maragakis, added, “Renewable energy is a critical component for developing a sustainable community, state and nation. The College of Engineering has set as one of its major strategic objectives to develop a first

Geology researcher Chris Sladek collects steam samples at Brady Hot Springs, east of Fernley. INSET: The Reno Renewable Energy Center is housed at the Redfield Campus on Mt. Rose Highway.

class renewable energy program consisting of new courses and degrees, state-of-the-art research and robust partnerships with industry.” NV Energy provided funds for two new assistant professors whose area of interest is renewable energy. These funds helped jumpstart the program.

In January 2008, the College of Engineering, in cooperation with other University academic departments, initiated an interdisciplinary minor in renewable energy. Open to all students, the minor is designed to expose students to a broad range of technical and social/political disciplines.

—Kimberly Zaski '95, '04M.A.