Recognizing the importance of supporting the research and teaching efforts of Nevada’s faculty, the mining industry continues to provide generous funding for faculty positions in the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering.

Goldcorp Inc. recently established the Goldcorp Term Professorship in Mining Engineering with the goal of supporting higher education in academic areas critical to the minerals industry, namely the geological sciences, mining engineering and mineral processing, extractive metallurgy and geographic information systems.

Goldcorp’s latest gift adds to a growing list of chairs and professorships at the Mackay School that are supported by the mining industry, including the Goldcorp endowed Chair, the Newmont endowed Professorship and the Barrick Gold of North America Visiting Professorship.

The Goldcorp and Newmont endowed positions are among 24 endowed positions at the University, which provide funding in perpetuity. Term professorships, including those from Barrick Gold and Goldcorp, are funded for a specific time.

“Support from our industry partners at these levels is critical to future growth in our academic mining programs as well as placing us in a position to provide the required human capital to an industry that is vital to the state of Nevada and the U.S. economy,” says Jeff Thompson, dean of the College of Science.

Vancouver-based Goldcorp, formerly Glamis, operated gold mining operations within the Battle Mountain area of eastern Nevada and still operates the Marigold Mine, also in Nevada. The company made a gift to endow a faculty position in minerals engineering in 2004. The Mackay School used this contribution as a component of a larger fundraising campaign to create an additional endowed faculty position and inspire further support from the mining industry.

“The University is thankful for support from industry, which has made possible educational opportunities for students interested in mining and metallurgical engineering and careers in the natural resource industry,” Thompson says.

The Goldcorp Endowed Chair in Minerals Engineering is held by Carl Nesbitt, the Newmont Endowed Professorship in Minerals Engineering is held by Maurice Fuerstenau, and the Barrick Gold of North America Visiting Professorship is held by Thom Seal, who also holds the John N. Butler Endowed Professorship in Extractive Metallurgy.

A Nevada graduate, Nesbitt ’80 (chemical engineering), ’85M.S. (metallurgical engineering), ’90Ph.D. (metallurgical engineering), has been teaching metallurgical engineering courses for more than 21 years—the last four at Nevada—and conducting research for 22 years, resulting in a number of patents.

Seal has spent more than 30 years working in the mining industry, retiring in 2008 as Newmont’s manager of metallurgy technology. His research focus is enhanced metal extraction.

Fuerstenau, a professor emeritus of metallurgy, is the only University of Nevada, Reno faculty member to have been elected to the National Academy of Engineering for his contributions to mineral processing, hydrometallurgy and engineering education.

—Staff reports

To learn more about supporting chairs and professorships at the Mackay School, please contact Char Hagemann, development director, at (775) 682-8791 or chagemann@unr.edu.