A sure path to achieving the dreams of a community, and a University

We are in a new era in higher education, where learning and living are two words that have become increasingly interchangeable. This is particularly true in the context of how a university is often an extension of the community it serves, and if the university is successful in what it does, how a community can often come to embrace the ideas, innovation and energy that a university can offer.

We reflect, in so many ways, the hopes and dreams of the other.

Our students are the vessels of all hopes and dreams, and for good reason. Our student body is as diverse and as accomplished as ever. A diverse and talented student body means that it is more incumbent than ever to provide all students with the resources necessary to fund a college education. More than 70 percent of our undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid, including grants, loans and scholarships. This demand is expected to only increase in the years to come.

Quality faculty is another essential piece in the delivery of knowledge and discovery to our community. During a period of record budget reductions, we have remained a quality institution, ranking among the top tier of the nation’s best public universities. Yet challenges remain.

In higher education, institutions are facing an escalation in the national competition for faculty. Through endowed professorships and chairs, the University is working to retain and recruit gifted faculty in this competitive environment.

By investing in our students and faculty, we show how deeply we care about the future—the future of this University, and the future of the community and state that it serves. I’ve seen, on countless occasions, how deeply you do care about this University. In recent months, among several key hires we’ve made, we have added a new Executive Vice President and Provost in Kevin Carman, a new Director of Athletics in Doug Knuth, and a new Head Football Coach in Brian Polian. Throughout these searches, I was struck by how involved our community was in the process—and how quickly and warmly the people we hired were welcomed to Reno.

In addition, the past few months have showcased on a national stage the talents of our former Wolf Pack quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, and our Hall of Fame football coach Chris Ault. The national sporting world has learned something that the people who work, study and graduate from our institution have known for quite some time. Namely, that our graduates’ accomplishments are worth noting and celebrating and reflect so positively on our institution, our city and our region.

The lives of the community and this University have never been more tightly bound. We are the best reflection of each other’s hopes. And, working together, our collective effort is providing the surest path in achieving each other’s dreams.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Johnson
President
www.unr.edu/president