NV Energy pledges $450,000 to renewable energy studies

The NV Energy Foundation, a longtime champion of the University of Nevada, Reno, has pledged an additional $450,000 in continued support of the Jeff Ceccarelli Renewable Energy Program and the University’s efforts to promote renewable energy education and research.

“NV Energy’s support over the past several years has helped to pioneer the University’s effort to become a leader in renewable energy development research, education and outreach,” says University President Marc Johnson.

This new commitment brings the total NV Energy Foundation funding to $2 million since the inception of the program in 2007. Support from NV Energy and other organizations, along with collaborative efforts with other educational institutions, have enabled the University of Nevada, Reno, to obtain more than $17 million for renewable energy research.

Michael Yackira, chief executive officer and president of NV Energy, says the University should be congratulated on its leadership and vision in bringing such valuable programs to northern Nevada and the region.

“The University continues to provide an important leadership role in developing the expertise and research needed to make Nevada the recognized authority on renewable energy programs and research,” Yackira says.

Last year, the renewable energy program was renamed in honor of longtime NV Energy executive and Nevada alumnus Jeff Ceccarelli ’76 (civil engineering), who retired in 2012 after 40 years with the company. Ceccarelli is a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Board and an emeritus member of the Alumni Council. In 2009, he was honored as the Nevada Alumni Association’s Alumnus of the Year.

To learn more about supporting the College of Engineering, please contact Mui Condon ’02, assistant director of development, (775) 682-6015 or ngu@unr.edu.
Mackay School alumnus and wife give to the ‘school that made this good life possible’

Don Jenkins ’50 (geological engineering) and his wife, Jeannette, believe in giving back to the institutions and communities that have impacted their lives.

The couple has established the Jenkins Family Scholarship Endowment and the Jenkins Family Endowment for Geological Engineering in gratitude to Don’s alma mater, the “school that made this good life possible,” Don says.

The Jenkins Family Scholarship Endowment benefits an undergraduate or graduate student in geological engineering and was first awarded this fall. The Jenkins Family Endowment for Geological Engineering will provide support to the Department of Geological Engineering and will be funded through a planned gift from the couple’s estate.

“What finer use could be found for the funds remaining in our trusts after our family has been provided for? Better to put those funds back in circulation for the betterment of the University that made their accumulation possible,” Don says.

Don was a World War II veteran when he arrived on campus. He earned his degree, but was unable to participate in commencement ceremonies in favor of accepting a job with the Anaconda Copper Company in Butte, Mont. He later moved to a career in electronics. He worked as the district manager of Atlas Copco Eastern Inc. before moving to Knoxville, Tenn., where he joined Jedonco Inc. as a sales engineer, eventually becoming president of the company.

For more information on planned giving opportunities, please contact Lisa M. Riley, Esq., director of the Office of Planned Giving, at (775) 682-6017 or lriley@unr.edu. To learn more about supporting the College of Science and Mackay School, please contact Char Hagemann, director of development, (775) 682-8791 or chagemann@unr.edu.

Wells Fargo Scholars honored

The annual Wells Fargo First Generation Scholarship Luncheon was held Oct. 29 in the Clark Room of Morrill Hall to honor 21 scholarship recipients, their families and the goodwill of Wells Fargo Bank. First Generation Scholars represent the first generation of their families to attend college.

Scholarship recipients receive an annual award of $3,500 each of their four years of college with satisfactory progress. Since 1988, Wells Fargo Bank has provided more than $950,000 in support of Nevada students.

To learn more about supporting scholarships at the University of Nevada, Reno, please contact Keiko Weil ’87, director of Donor Relations, (775) 682-5964 or kweil@unr.edu.

BACK ROW: Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations John Carothers, Jennifer Mendez, Katie Hossick, Elizabeth Sims, Taylor Martinez, Wells Fargo Bank Regional Area President Sean French, Heather Gilmore, Astrid Perez, Yessica Soto and Jesus Flores-Padilla.
FRONT ROW: Kai Carl, Amanda Flores, Mary Quiroga, Gemma Beltran, Josue Gaytan-Garcia, Jannet Roman, Jeannette Martinez and Vicente (Wowie) Gapuz.

Jeannette and Don Jenkins ’50 have established two new endowments in their family’s name.