From the President

Now serving as your University Tour-Guide-in-Chief

University presidents play many roles. There are times when we are asked to dive into our institution’s budgets with the skill of accountants, with numbers and data spilling forth from us like computerized printouts.

We spend time with students. We listen as they tell us about their dreams for tomorrow. We position our institutions to help our students find what they do well, and prepare them for spending their life in the pursuit of doing it well.

We work to connect with our community. We encourage everyone in our region and our state toward the collective ideal of physical gateways leading into a world of collaboration, of a future that is conceived and realized together.

We spend time with donors and alumni. We find that there are sweet spots in past personal experience that can feel like poetry where our University can stir the echoes, and like the strongest of epics, bring forth the sharing of story, deep reflection, and the joy of memory.

And then there is one of my most important roles (albeit a slightly unofficial capacity relative to my job description as University President): That of Campus Golf Cart Tour Guide.

Rain or shine, in brisk days of Washoe Zephyr or on calm days with skies profoundly colored Nevada Blue, I often take guests across our campus in an electric golf cart supplied to me by our Facilities Services Division.

Our golf cart hums with near-silent efficiency. The tour, however, is anything but, as we are a kinetic campus. We are a place full of the flurry of construction. Students who hurry to and from class. Dedicated faculty who are finding the answers to the spirit and wants of our age. Hard-working and resourceful staff members who in their daily labor make our institution run smoothly and efficiently.

My tour guests are usually impressed with what they see. They should be. In many instances, it is through their generosity that many of our capital improvements, our student initiatives, and our investment in our faculty and staff, are even made possible.

In this issue of Nevada Silver & Blue, you will read about scores of individuals, foundations and groups that have given to our University so that we can continue to grow in order to meet the needs of our students, and of our state.

Their donations, both large and small, both monetarily and in the investment of the inspiration of spirit, are what give our campus its resounding sense of energy. This type of support will be needed even more—for continued capital improvement, for scholarships, for investment in our academic offerings and in enhancing the support this high-quality University can offer faculty and staff in the important work they do.

If one of my roles is to drive a golf cart across our campus, serving as tour guide, extolling our virtues as a research University that is steadily growing in excellence and reputation, then so be it. Ours is certainly a story of success, worth sharing often. I am deeply grateful to each and every one of our donors. Our successes would not be possible without your steadfast support. Thank you for partnering with us in building a stronger Nevada, together.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Johnson
President
unr.edu/president