FROM THE PRESIDENT

Student Achievement: A Building Opens, and the Journey Begins

What is especially impressive about the building is the fact that it will be very much a student-run facility, with students playing key roles in the operation of the building and in the services offered.

Recently, I had a chance to visit with one of the students playing a role in this effort. Gabe Kennedy is a military service veteran who served in the Nevada Air National Guard and the U.S. Marine Corps before returning to our University. He’s now majoring in English. Gabe is one of many student veterans who will be contributing to the services provided by the Nevada Military Support Alliance Veterans’ and Military Center, located on the Pennington Student Achievement Center’s third floor.

“Now, with this center, the great thing is our veterans on our campus will have a single place to go,” Gabe said. “It’s a great way to bridge that gap, and with the center, we will have more opportunities to help ease the transition veteran face.”

Gabe is one of the key drivers of a program called “Vet2Vet,” which offers new veteran students guidance and mentoring from veterans who are more seasoned students. Gabe’s perspective is not only colored by his time in the military, but also by his original time on our campus, in 2007, when he was a freshman criminal justice major on the Millennium Scholarship.

I asked him what the campus was like then, and now.

“It’s night and day,” Gabe said, smiling, noting that with new student-centered buildings and continued emphasis on a remarkable student experience, the University has made notable inroads in meeting the needs of all of our students.

It’s been quite a journey to see the opening of the William N. Pennington Student Achievement Center. And in many ways, with its opening, the operation of the building and in the services offered.

The William N. Pennington Student Achievement Center, at 77,345 square feet, provides gathering spaces and centers that are open and accessible to every member of the campus community. This includes the Clarence & Martha Jones Family Foundation Writing and Math Centers, the Marshall R. Matley Foundation Disability Resource Center, and Nevada Career Studio.