From the President

An investment ‘standing apart by itself’

The past several months on our campus have borne witness to a notable and record-setting commitment by donors and philanthropic organizations in strengthening our University in an era when state budget lines have otherwise dwindled. Support from our donors and philanthropic organizations in our community is allowing us to expand our offerings, increase our physical infrastructure and help us maintain a high level of quality in all three areas of our mission: learning, discovery and engagement.

This issue of Nevada Silver & Blue highlights many of these instances where opportunities have been created for success-centered projects, including the William N. Pennington Student Achievement Center, the E. L. Wiegand Fitness Center, the School of the Arts renovation and completion of the expansion of our Large Scale Structures Laboratory. All of these projects are a testament to the foresight of individual donors and philanthropic organizations that understand the future is now for our University, our students and our community. The more closely intertwined our present can become, the better chance we all have for future achievement.

These are projects that serve, in one way or another, as beacons of the various aspects of our mission, whether it is creating a culture of student success, cultivating world-improving research and creativity, or enhancing our communities and business through meaningful engagement. They speak to the challenge and responsibility our University has in finding ways to prepare our students to be leaders in an increasingly complex 21st century global economy, while also enabling all who work at our University to harness our collective talent, brainpower and entrepreneurial spirit to expand the frontiers of what we know. Finally, the investment and partnerships we’ve forged with individual donors and with the philanthropic organizations of our community bear witness to something that is at the core of what we do every day at the University. We take the dreams of our students, and provide the knowledge and opportunity that give these dreams the shape of attainable possibility. This is why, more than 100 years ago, the famed philanthropist Andrew Carnegie once wrote that in the course of a lifetime the investment a person makes in our universities is an investment “standing apart by itself.”

The individuals and organizations that have invested in us over the past several months and indeed, the past several years, clearly understand this to be true. If our University is to thrive, if we are to stay on our current dynamic path of growth and achievement, we must continue to forge the relationships, partnerships and friendships that will more fully develop our capacity for transformational education. This is an exciting time for our University, made all the more meaningful knowing that we are growing our potential for success through the efforts and investment of so many. We are tremendously grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Johnson
President

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