

From: Richard G. Gordon [mailto:rgg@rice.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 2:58 PM
To: Milton Glick; Marc Johnson
Cc: Jonathan G Price; Corné Kreemer
Subject: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Dear Drs. Glick and Johnson,

I write to express my strongest support for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG). It is essential to have a vital NBMG in a state in which mineral resources and geothermal potential are so important now and to the future. Moreover, as demonstrated for example by the recent tragedy in Japan, it is essential to have independent state supported expertise and research on geohazards.

There are many excellent scientists on the staff of NBMG. Closest to my own work are two outstanding geodesists, Geoff Blewitt and Corné Kreemer. Blewitt has been a central figure in the development of GPS as a cutting-edge tool with broad applications across the geophysical sciences. He has made vital contributions to methods of GPS data analysis (which are widely used by geodesists around the world), establishment and use of a global GPS reference frame, and determinations of polar motion and Earth's center of mass. He stands out for his insightful and rigorous physical interpretation of forefront geodetic results and analysis. His top level research leadership in the GPS geodetic community is widely acknowledged and was one of the reasons that he was elected a fellow of the American Geophysical Union.

Kreemer is the world leader in the development of a global reference frame that accounts for the deforming zones of lithosphere (Earth's outermost strong layer) that result in earthquakes and other major geohazards. (I note that his work on this complicated problem made my own prior work obsolete.) Because of his unique abilities to analyze deformation on a global and regional scale and to interpret them in a geodetic framework, I approached him a couple of years ago to jointly research the deformation of the lithosphere due to cooling and thermal contraction. We wrote a successful collaborative proposal to the National Science Foundation, which is currently funded as we work together on this problem. His talents and achievements are widely recognized, and it was no surprise to me when he received the Geodesy Section award this past year from the American Geophysical Union for his outstanding contributions.

I am aware that these are tough times financially, but I believe it would be a mistake to break up this excellent group of scientists whose mission is so important to the state of Nevada and whose work is so esteemed around the world.

Best regards,
Richard Gordon

--

Richard G. Gordon
Macelwane Medalist and Fellow of the American Geophysical Union
Day Medalist and Fellow of the Geological Society of America

President-Elect of Geomagnetism and Paleomagnetism Section of the AGU
Past Chairman of the Geophysics Division of the GSA

Keck Professor of Geophysics and Vice Chairman
Department of Earth Science--MS 126
Rice University
6100 Main St.
Houston, TX 77005 USA