

From: Keith&Linda Howard [mailto:keith.howard1@comcast.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 10:57 PM  
To: Dean Jeffrey S. Thompson  
Cc: Jonathan G Price  
Subject: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Dr. Jeffrey S. Thompson  
Dean, College of Science  
MS-0424, University of Nevada  
Reno, NV 98557

Dear Dean Thompson:

I write to express my support for the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (NBMG) as an integral and critical part of the University of Nevada's College of Science. As I see it the NBMG serves the state and university through three important roles. It provides key first-rate earth-science expertise and information for state hazards and resources issues. The NBMG enhances the educational mission of the University through its cadre of outstanding scholars and interactions with students and other science faculty. And NBMG brings in a substantial amount of grant and contract research money to the state.

As a researcher and student of Nevada geology since my PhD work in the 1960s, I have a great appreciation for the very high standards of academic excellence by the scientists in the Bureau. Every state needs and has its own geological survey to provide its state with needed information on hazards and resources. NBMG shines brightly as one of the very best, because of its high-caliber and productive research and for its interaction with university students and faculty. In my long research career including scientific leadership at the United States Geological Survey, as a Senior Fulbright Scholar at the University of Cambridge, and now as an active Research Scientist Emeritus, I have seen again and again the difference that superb researchers can make---like the several Bureau geologists with whom I have interacted much over the last 15 years doing geology in Clark, Elko, Eureka, and Lander Counties. These first-rate and highly productive scientists are great resources for students. You will know of service on thesis and dissertation committees, but you may be less aware of the extent of informal mentoring or of the respectful prestige NBMG scientists garner from the international scientific community.

I have emphasized the value directly to the university of this department as I am sure you are already well aware of the important NBMG role in research and information on Nevada flood and seismic hazards and on the scientific framework for geothermal and Carlin-trend heavy-metal resources. If you see the university as an investment for Nevada's future through its students and its faculty, I suggest that NBMG fulfills those roles in exemplary fashion.

The NBMG department seems a wise investment choice for the university in these tough economic times.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Howard, PhD.            Research Scientist Emeritus  
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