

From: Joel Edwards [<mailto:joel.edwards12@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 12:28 AM

To: regentjamesdean@aol.com; jgeddes@sbcglobal.net; malden@nevada.edu; andrea_anderson@nshe.nevada.edu; robert_blakely@nshe.nevada.edu; william_cobb@nshe.nevada.edu; cedric_crear@nshe.nevada.edu; mark_doubrava@nshe.nevada.edu; ronknecht@aol.com; kevin_melcher@nshe.nevada.edu; kevin_j_page@nshe.nevada.edu; jack_schofield@nshe.nevada.edu; michael_wixom@nshe.nevada.edu; scott_wasserman@nshe.nevada.edu; gbrower@sen.state.nv.us; rkirner@asm.state.nv.us; Jonathan G Price; James E Faulds

Subject: Graduate Student response to Curricular Review Proposal

To the Board of Regents and members of the Nevada Senate and Assembly:

My name is Joel Edwards and I am a new graduate student at UNR, and I am writing this letter in response to the proposed cuts for the NBMG.

I am from Iowa, born and raised, and received an undergraduate degree from BYU in Utah this past December and have had until recently, relatively no affiliation with the state of Nevada. However, I find myself living here now because of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology and the work they do with geothermal energy. Finishing school up this past year, I knew I was interested in both geology and geothermal energy from my work with Raser Technologies, and I contacted many faculty across the US concerning their research with geothermal energy. Time and time again I was directed to the NBMG and UNR. I discovered, during that time of searching for graduate opportunities, that bar none, the NBMG and UNR were the foremost US research institutions conducting world-class research on geothermal energy. Reno was the place to be if I wanted to be involved in the geothermal industry.

I am here now, fully funded by a federal DOE grant. Thus I am not costing your state any money, however, from my tuition, living expenses, etc., I am generating revenue for Nevada.

It seems to me, being from another state, a little silly to be cutting out an institution that generates a ton of interest in your state. Outside of gambling and the mineral industry, what else does Nevada have that makes it truly unique in the US? I can't think of anything off the top of my head. Geothermal energy and its potential has caught the interests of many up-and-coming students in the sciences, such as geology, all over the US. I have colleagues asking me about opportunities all the time. When I moved here, I had friends and family startled that I would move to Reno, and I had to explain to them that Reno Nevada is like the Houston Texas of oil for geothermal energy.

From my vantage point, I am here because of the NBMG and its work on geothermal energy. By cutting this program in an attempt to fix your fiscal misery, you're losing outside interest in your state and therefore losing revenue. No longer will you get my tuition, rent, food, gas, and shopping money. If you're looking for state-wide growth, virtually cutting the NBMG is barking up the wrong tree.

Sincerely,

Joel Edwards

--

University of Nevada Reno Geology
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
joel.edwards12@gmail.com
(712) 309 5306