



March 29, 2011

Milton D. Glick, President  
Marc Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost  
President's Office  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, NV 89557-001

Dear President Glick and Provost Johnson,

I am writing you about a matter of mutual concern. I am President of UNAVCO, a university consortium of which the University of Nevada, Reno, is a founding member. UNAVCO now has an international membership of 164 institutions – 94 U.S. universities, and 70 primarily international associated universities and observatories – committed to geodesy research and education. The consortium operates the U.S. national geodesy facility for the National Science Foundation. Dr. Geoff Blewitt has been deeply involved in UNAVCO science and governance for several decades; Drs. Kreemer and Hammond serve in key UNAVCO governance and leadership roles.

I am deeply troubled by the extraordinarily difficult budget choices that UNR is facing in the coming year. I know how painful this must be, having cut so much already and still being asked for more. This will surely change the face of the university. Please don't let the planned cut undermine NBMG geodesy, a showcase program with an international reputation and global reach.

Your web site notes:

*As with all of our previous budget cuts, we have attempted to maintain the University's core strengths, which include a strong research program and quality degree programs.*

You are aware of the international stature and significant resource leverage of research programs within the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. It may be less evident in Reno, however, that the geodesy group in the Nevada Geodetic Laboratory plays a critical role in our national and international research community. NBMG drives research innovation that gives UNR global reach. No one, within the U.S. or elsewhere, can duplicate the unique contributions of this group. A local threat to NBMG is an international threat to this global science community and to progress on geohazards mitigation, as well as fundamental research.

The Geodetic Laboratory creates data products that are foundational to linking research to earthquake hazards and risk mitigation. The credentials, innovation, productivity, and impact of their collective work is staggering. And of course, the resources that NBMG attracts to conduct this work triples the state's investment for the economic benefit of Nevada and for the national interest.

As global populations grow, our deep dependence on the natural world and our vulnerability to hazards escalates. Even among the many resource-blessed and hazards-vulnerable western states, Nevada is preeminent for its natural resources, natural opportunities for economic development, and its exposure to geohazards. Any step towards preserving NBMG through this fiscal crisis will position Nevada to emerge from this downturn economically stronger and more hazards-resilient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Meghan Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. Meghan Miller  
President, UNAVCO  
6350 Nautilus Drive  
Boulder, CO 80301