



To whom the future of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology is a concern:

The Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology is one of the strongest research and service organizations in the NSHE. Its staff comprises, almost entirely, full faculty at the Assistant, Associate and Full Professor level. The role it plays as a nationally recognized “State Geological Survey” is crucial to the productivity and reputation of the University of Nevada.

The NBMG plays a critical role in education within NSHE. It is a misconception that the NBMG does not contribute to the teaching mission at UNR. Specifically, although the NBMG historically has not taught many formal classes within the Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering (DGSE) curriculum, there have been important exceptions. For five years Dr. Jim Faulds (NBMG) directed and taught the DGSE Geology Field Camp. This spring Dr. Faulds is teaching a graduate seminar in geothermal resource assessment with an enrollment of over 20 graduate students, and this is not his first graduate teaching effort. Dr. Jon Price has team-taught geology courses in mineralogy and geochemistry. Gary Johnson of the NBMG taught a popular and well-attended course in GIS for many years. An important aspect of the COS education effort is support of graduate students. Several of the NBMG faculty advise graduate students, serve on graduate committees, and informally mentor graduate students. Several of the NBMG faculty support DGSE graduate students through Research Assistantships funded by their grants.

The NBMG role in education outside of the classroom cannot be overstated. A visit to the NBMG website (<http://www.nbmgs.unr.edu/>) shows a wealth of educational resources maintained by the Bureau, both electronically and physically. There are 5 internal links alone dedicated to “science education”. K-12 educators throughout the state utilize these resources on a daily basis, or if they don’t, they should.

The NBMG is a strong and nationally recognized research organization. Its research productivity in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals is impressive with many articles published (please see

<http://www.nbmgs.unr.edu/dox/of1014.pdf> for a complete list).

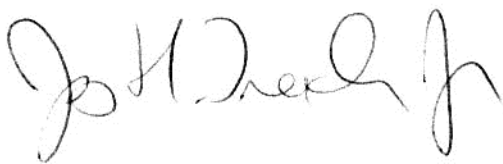
Members of the NBMG work throughout the state of Nevada and all over the world on relevant research topics including alternative energy (mainly geothermal), earthquake hazard assessment, high-resolution geodesy to measure tectonic and environmental processes, the geology of economic resources and minerals, landslides, floods, and other hazards. Their work is a major reason that the Mackay

School of Earth Sciences, and the University of Nevada, Reno has an international “brand name” in the Earth Sciences.

The NBMG provides critical services for the State of Nevada, for the U.S., and the world. Bureau geologists interact with state agencies and the general public on many fronts including research and assessment of economic resources, earthquake hazards, oil and gas drilling activity and preservation of state-required hydrocarbon exploration records, map production and sales, and web resources for regional earth sciences. A wide variety of maps is readily available on the internet from Bureau-maintained servers, and hard-copy versions are available at the map sales office. These services are especially important in a state with the third-highest earthquake risk in the country (by state), the highest gold production in the country of any state, and the ever-present need to be smart about water and all natural resources. The NBMG is the go-to source for anyone interested in the natural world, hazards, and education in Nevada.

By downsizing and reorganizing the NBMG, UNR and the State of Nevada will lose more money and resources than they save in short-term budget cuts. Active researchers will be forced out, taking their research money with them. More will leave as they realize that this organization no longer has critical mass to sustain the overall effort. Young faculty, the future of Earth sciences at UNR, are more mobile and will be more likely to move to other institutions as support and resources dwindle. Those of us who have research colleagues at NBMG will be forced to look elsewhere. Realigning faculty roles will also reduce the time and effort spent on research by faculty who are still here. Once lost, this productive organization cannot be reclaimed easily, if at all.

Please consider carefully, and do not eliminate the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. H. Trexler, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

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