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April 5, 2012

COPY

James Dean Leavitt
200 Hoover Avenue, Suite 150
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Re: UNR Presidential Search

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

I am the Foundation Manager for The Nell J. Redfield Foundation ("Foundation") located in Reno, Nevada. Through the years, the Foundation has been one of the major financial supporters of the University of Nevada, Reno ("UNR"). Since 1983 the Foundation has contributed approximately \$40,000,000.00 to UNR for scholarship support, program support and building construction and renovation. We have supported UNR through four Presidencies and numerous Interim Presidents.

During his time in office, Milton Glick initiated a number of significant programs which were moving UNR in a positive direction during a most challenging economic time. One of President Glick's major decisions was to select Marc Johnson as his Provost. President Glick entrusted Marc Johnson with significant responsibility and was outspoken in his support for Provost Johnson.

Since President Glick's untimely death in April 2011, Marc Johnson has filled the position of Interim President and he has capably carried on the programs initiated by President Glick without interruption. During that time, Marc Johnson has tirelessly worked to advance the interests of UNR. He guided UNR through the last legislative session and managed to retain the integrity of the University through yet another major round of funding cuts. He has overseen the growth of UNR as it enters the 2011/12 school year with the student population having increased to a historical high.

Since his appointment as Interim President, we at the Redfield Foundation have worked closely with President Johnson on several significant funding activities including the Foundation's decision to support a ground breaking clinical research program with UNSOM. We are currently reviewing several additional major University related projects with President Johnson.

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The next several years will be defining ones for UNR and it is vitally important that its President be a person of vision, qualified to continue to advance and build on the programs initiated by President Glick.

As a major source of funding for UNR and as a significant member of the Foundation community in Northern Nevada, we are heavily invested in the success of UNR. We believe that Marc Johnson, the Interim President of UNR, is the right person to entrust with the task of carrying on and enhancing the programs put in place by President Glick. President Johnson has shown the strength of character and the vision that will be needed to continue the growth and success of UNR in the years to come. We are confident that, with Marc Johnson as President of UNR, our support for the many initiatives under consideration would continue uninterrupted. Should the Regents select a stranger to fill the vacancy, there can be no assurance that current funding discussions will continue or that the projects currently being considered for funding will receive support in the future.

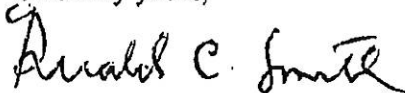
Future funding from the Foundation community will rely in large part on the selection of a well qualified candidate who is familiar with the issues facing UNR and who has a positive working relationship with the grant makers in Northern Nevada. We have been in communication with many of our Foundation partners in Northern Nevada, each of whom has been a significant source of funding for UNR through the years. They echo our support for Marc Johnson as the right person to succeed Milton Glick as President of UNR.

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you in person to more fully share with you our experiences with Marc Johnson, both as Provost and as Interim President, and our assessment of him as the proper choice for President of UNR.

Please let me know when we might schedule a meeting to discuss our reasons for supporting Marc Johnson as the next President of UNR.

jl

Sincerely yours,



Gerald C. Smith

GCS:ja

CC: Regents on the Presidential Search Committee

✓ CC: Members of the Board of Regents