Invent the Future

They dreamed of machines that sparked the Industrial Revolution. They wrote literary works that inspired generations. They gave us scientific advances that cured diseases. They are the men and women, the inventors and thinkers, who inspire us even today as we search for answers and contemplate the future. **Who among us has not dreamed the inventor’s dream? Who has not wished to be the first to write on a blank page?**

Stop for a moment and consider how you might create the framework for invention in your own life. Now think of that framework in terms of an entire city. On what kind of canvas would you paint the future of a city like Las Vegas? What tools would you need for invention on such a major scale? **Imagination? Knowledge? Technology?**

The fact is, an essential component of any “major city” is a thriving university. Whether it’s Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Austin, or Las Vegas, for a city to be able to offer the widest possible range of business, cultural and scientific opportunities, it must also encourage original thought, personal growth and empowerment. **A university is the center of civic invention, a portal to what young communities such as ours can someday become.** A university also is about the development of human capital, one person at a time, as it changes the lives of students, alumni, and community members.

Today, as UNLV prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary, we have the opportunity to shape the future of our community. UNLV is home to Southern Nevada’s best minds in science, economics, history and the arts. This is where advanced medical and computer technology often make their debut. This is where information systems, like those in our library, provide a powerful means of research. We are raising aspirations about who people are and who they can be. But this is only the beginning.

**The future demands that we offer much more.**

By supporting the programs and facilities that make new ideas possible at UNLV, you can help set Las Vegas and Southern Nevada on a new path. By placing higher education at the forefront of our relatively young community’s agenda, you will ensure the availability of resources necessary to create Southern Nevada’s future – not just respond to its growth. **Together, let us explore countless answers to the inventor’s inquiry: What if?**