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## UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA HEALTH SCIENCES SYSTEM (UNHSS) ANNOUNCES MAJOR GIFT

*UNHSS facilitates gift from lifelong Nevada resident and successful businessman to set up UNLV, UNR School of Medicine, Lou Ruvo Brain Institute consortium*

Las Vegas, NV—Surrounded by family, friends, Nevada higher education officials, and medical care leaders; community philanthropist and successful businessman Bruce Layne announced a \$500,000 donation to help cure neurodegenerative disorders. The donation was facilitated by the University of Nevada Health Sciences System and will foster a partnership among UNLV, the University of Nevada School of Medicine and the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute to tackle diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

A life long Nevada resident, UNLV graduate, community leader, one-time candidate for lieutenant governor, and successful business owner, Bruce Layne was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1999 at the height of his career. Bruce and his family committed to contributing their resources to unlocking the secrets of this debilitating disease and help find a cure.

At a Nevada Board of Regents, Health Sciences Committee meeting today, Bruce announced his purpose for the half-a-million dollar donation. "This gift is just the beginning of a grand vision for medical care and education in Nevada," **Bruce Layne** said. "My vision is to light a fire under disease research and this gift is a match that will spark a bonfire. The University of Nevada Health Sciences System has been the only way to cross institutional boundaries and weave together the collaboration that will be required to beat terrible diseases like Parkinson's."

**Regent Dorothy Gallagher**, chair of the Health Sciences System Committee said, "I have known Bruce Layne for many years and he has always been such a great friend to the system of higher education. This is the most recent of his many contributions, and we are so pleased he sees fit to contribute to the vision of the Health Sciences System."

Layne's gift will help establish an Electronic Medical Records system at the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute. Doctors and medical students from the University of Nevada School of Medicine will help compile data and information from patients at the Brain Institute. That information will be stored and analyzed using the UNLV Supercomputing Center, which the only computer in Nevada with the capacity to store such large amounts of data.

The Lou Ruvo Brain Institute seeks cures for neurodegenerative disorders through world class research conducted by world class clinicians and physician scientists. The Layne Family Center for Discovery will facilitate this mission providing an electronic medical record system coupled to the National Super Computing Center at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. This one-of-a-kind collaboration promises state of the art medical information management and the opportunity for national – if not international – research collaboration in neurodegenerative disorders.

**Larry Ruvo, founder of Keep Memory Alive**, the foundation for the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute said, "the Bruce Layne family's gift provides additional funding for our mutual vision to

accelerate cures for neurodegenerative disorders through collaborative research, medical information management and information technology. Central to this of course is an Electronic Medical Records system that captures and stores clinical information on all our patients, which can be analyzed to advance cures for devastating diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. This wonderful gift anchors our mission to implement an Electronic Medical Record system at the Lou Ruvo Institute from our very first day of operation.”

The UNHSS will coordinate the project in collaboration with the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute, the National Supercomputing Center at UNLV, and physicians of the University of Nevada School of Medicine. The donation will go to and be managed by the UNLV Foundation.

**Dr. Maurizio Trevisan**, Executive Vice Chancellor and CEO of the Health Sciences System said, “I add my gratitude to the Layne family and commend their generosity and spirit. The state of Nevada is at an exciting cross road when it comes to health care infrastructure. With the potential of our higher education institutions and world class organizations like the Nevada Cancer Institute, the Luvu Ruvo Brian Institute, the Whitemore/Peterson Institute for Neurological Diseases and the Lili Claire Foundation, Nevada can be a leader in health and medical research and treatment. However, we can be successful only if we are working together.

“As in the case of this gift from the Layne family, the University of Nevada Health Sciences System serves to coordinate the many entities involved in health care and research. The UNHSS looks forward to facilitating remarkable partnerships both internally among Nevada’s higher education institutions and externally with partners like the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute.”

Bruce and his wife Sherry Layne have two sons Chad and Trevor. Layne is a graduate of Bishop Gorman High School and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He instructed insurance courses at the University for five years and has been a guest lecturer there for twelve years. In addition to his education accomplishments, Layne has served on a significant number boards and committees in southern Nevada. He has been on the UNLV Foundation board for 15 years, was named a Distinguished Alumnus, and founded Career Day. Layne started his own insurance company which became the largest insurance agency in Nevada, Layne and Associates. Layne, along with Jack Sheehan, authored a book, MY GIFT, documenting the lessons and gifts he has learned throughout his successful life.

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