

NOMINATION JUSTIFICATION—FRED B. COX

AFFILIATION WITH UNLV AND NSHE

Fred B. Cox has been a contributor to the College of Engineering and UNLV as a donor, industrial partner, advocate, role model, and counselor to students.

His association with UNLV began in 1999 when he and his wife established the “Fred Cox Engineering Scholarship and the Harriet Cox Scholarship. Fred and Harriet Cox joined the President’s Inner Circle in 1999 and have been contributors since that time. He has served as a member of the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees since 2002. They have contributed over \$1,000,000 to the university.

Mr. Cox has contributed his own money and has been instrumental in introducing many more donors to the college. He has been actively involved in the college’s capstone senior design experience, which involves a one-of-kind college-wide competition judged by industry leaders. The Harriet and Fred Cox Engineering Fund was established in 2002 and they are the major sponsors of the Harriet and Fred Cox Senior Design Engineering Awards and the Senior Design Program. Students receive prize monies totaling \$20,000 every year and are honored in a major gala event at Cox Pavilion. The 13th anniversary of the Fred and Harriet Cox Senior Design Competition and Dinner was celebrated last May.

The quality of senior design projects has grown exponentially in the last ten years. Some of these projects have commercial potential and Mr. Cox has been an avid advocate for commercializing them. He actively meets with the students to critique their projects and encourages them to commercialize. He has urged the college to figure out a way to help students start businesses based on their senior design projects.

As a member of the Mendenhall Innovation Program, Mr. Cox has been very active in introducing hands-on education at all levels of undergraduate education. Hands-on modules in transportronics and hydrotronics were introduced to the freshman in 2010 and are a direct result of comments, criticisms and suggestions from engineering board members, including Mr. Cox. The technology commercialization minor available for engineering undergraduates was based on suggestions from Mr. Cox. This minor is poised to create many technology-based start-ups in the valley. Mr. Cox is serious about encouraging a faction of graduating seniors to set up shop in Las Vegas and become technology entrepreneurs. He is a driving force behind UNLV’s engineering and business colleges’ technology-based economic diversification. He has been working with several donors to create and implement an “Engineering Innovation Fund” to seed start-ups out of UNLV engineering projects and mentor them to the level of “venture.” In the last few years, Mr. Cox has been working hard to bring more donors with a passion for STEM education to the college.

Mr. Cox is a donor who actively participates in providing valuable input to the college to shape undergraduate curriculum, which is meaningful, relevant, and results in economic diversification of Southern Nevada. He has a strong educational background, excellent engineering entrepreneurship, a commitment to hands-on and entrepreneurship education for UNLV students, a willingness to support the university and the college with donation of funds, and is committed to giving his time and energy to UNLV.

CAREER BACKGROUND

Mr. Cox received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1956 from Texas A&M, his master's in electrical engineering from MIT in 1958, and a professional electrical engineering degree from MIT in 1959. His career has included tenures at Texas Instruments, Beckman Systems, and Dynus, Inc. Mr. Cox is currently a Board Trustee and the chairman emeritus of Emulex Corporation. He founded four successful corporations—Emulex Corporation, Manufacturers Capital, California Data Processors, and Microdata Corporation.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2012 Silver State Award from the UNLV Alumni Association.
- UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees since 2002.
- UNLV College of Engineering Advisory Council.
- College of Education Advisory Board.