Through my service as Interim Director, I have come to realize that our alumni and students share a passion for design, making, and service that together contribute to the enhancement of the communities in which we live and work. Successful stories such as the 2015 U.S. DOE Race to Zero Competition, where our collaboration with the Southern Moapa Paiute Tribe resulted in a low-income home recognized with a Design Excellence Award, or the highly innovative 2013 and 2017 U.S. DOE Solar Decathlon Competition entries (in 2013 we placed 2nd overall; in 2017 we placed 1st in Innovation and 2nd in the Architecture and Engineering contests), illustrate why your design education at the UNLV School of Architecture is so valuable.

I can proudly attest that our graduates are often recognized by their ability to be empathetic with end-users of variable needs, for their skill to identify and investigate critical design issues, for their use of evidence and data to inform design, but most importantly, for their generosity in sharing their time and talents to advance worthy causes. Our alumni’s work, and the inspiring stories shared by some of you during the 2017 Klai•Juba•Wald Lecture Series, challenge us to be better, to build upon our legacy, and to boldly look into the future as we strive to fulfill our noble mission to improve the human condition through design.

Yet, as the design professions undergo rapid transformation, we need your continued help to ensure the success of the next generation of designers. Your support may come in many forms: from attending mentoring and networking events to connect with our students, to participating in design reviews, to providing summer internships and hiring our graduates, and, of course, through your financial support. There is certainly more to be done (e.g., plans are being drawn to both refurbish space and purchase equipment for an advanced digital studio, and to launch a study abroad center for the UNLV School of Architecture), and your interest and continued support are vital in bringing these, and other projects, to fruition.

I hope that Vertex makes you as proud as I am of the excellent work produced by our future UNLV School of Architecture Alumni! They, like you, have learned about the importance of exploring, with an open mind, critical design issues that affect our human experience and wellbeing. Please consider supporting the UNLV School of Architecture as it enters into a new and exciting third decade of educational excellence!