MISSION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of McCaw School of Mines is to provide education on the importance of mining and to promote a positive and responsible image of the mining industry and its partners.

Through interactive tours and exhibits we strive to communicate the maxim, “If it isn’t grown, it must be mined,” and the importance this phrase plays in the everyday lives of those in our communities. We also strive to spark an interest in mining careers to those that visit the Mine and emphasize the many career pathways possible.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Located on 1.4 acres of property adjacent to the Gordon McCaw STEAM Academy campus, the McCaw School of Mines was developed in the early 1990’s through the efforts of then Gordon McCaw Elementary School Principal Janet Dobry. Fashioned in a similar manner as the Indiana Jones Ride at Disneyland, the 5,100 square foot realistic model of a historic underground mine was dedicated in 1996 and is the only simulated underground mine of its kind in the state. In 2000 a 3,000 square foot Visitor’s Center was added to the property. In April of 2018 McCaw School of Mines welcomed their 100,000th visitor.

McCaw School of Mines Foundation is a non-profit educational foundation founded in 1996 and formed under IRS Code 501(c)(3) to oversee McCaw School of Mines. The foundation has been recognized by GuideStar with their highest rating, the Platinum Star Seal of Transparency. McCaw School of Mines is primarily staffed by volunteers under the leadership of Executive Director Philip Luna. Mr. Luna has been the Executive Director since May of 2017.
FACTS AND FIGURES

During Calendar Year 2019:

- We provided 112 guided field trips for Clark County area schools and groups.

- 86% of school field trips were provided free of charge to the attending school including all Clark County School District field trips.

- 6,636 people visited our Mine Experience. Since 1996 we have educated over 110,000 students, educators and families on the importance of minerals in our society, mining’s role in producing the minerals we need, and how mining has contributed to Nevada’s statehood and rich history.

- We hosted a free two-day “Haunted Mines” event that drew more than 1,450 attendees and greatly helped to increase our exposure in the community.

- We upgraded our facilities and property to allow for self-guided tours.

- For the first time since we opened in 1996, we began to open to the general public on the first Saturday of every month offering both guided and self-guided tours. We had 360 visitors on our October 5th opening day.
FROM OUR VISITORS

“Thank you so much for the amazing field trip! Our school loves visiting every year.”
- Christine Moore, 4th Grade Teacher, Lummis Elementary School