THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

INTERDISCIPLINARY COMPUTING BUILDING CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, something remarkable was happening at the University of Utah. The faculty in the university's fledgling computer science program, including David Evans and Ivan Sutherland, were mentoring the pioneers of the information age. Computer science graduates from that storied era went on to create entire industries in fields as wide-ranging as graphics, desktop publishing, human-computer interfaces, the internet, film animation, scientific computing and visualization.

The approach that Dave and Ivan took to support graduate students and create such an innovative environment was unusual and extraordinarily effective. Utah is uniquely positioned to build on this legacy. The results have already proven to be a foundation of a vibrant community that will propel Utah forward in economic and technical development.

We were privileged to be part of that "Camelot Era" in computing at the University of Utah, an experience that certainly changed the trajectory of our lives. Since then, the College of Engineering has graduated thousands more engineering and computer science graduates who have had great impact for good on the State and the Nation. Today, those graduates are fueling the Utah economy as technology leaders and innovators. From financial applications to strategic defense, the U's engineering and computer science graduates are the preferred graduates of local industry.

That's why we support the vision of College of Engineering Dean Richard Brown and University of Utah President Taylor Randall in their request for a new building for computer science. The support given by the State to the College of Engineering through the Engineering Initiative has enabled the tremendous student body growth in computing and helped make the U a magnate for talent. But the technology leaders of tomorrow should not be receiving their education in the same building we learned in more than 50 years ago. Technology has advanced and, Utah's flagship computer science program needs to advance as well.

When we were graduating from the U, California offered the best job opportunities in the technical fields. Today, Utah's economy is ranked number 1 in the nation. Its 8,500 tech businesses rely on the U's capacity for producing the premier engineering and computer science graduates. That's increasingly difficult in a 60-year-old building that is out-of-date and over-capacity. To accommodate student demand, first-year classes are now being taught in performance theaters with standing-room-only.

In computer science, there is an intense, world-wide competition for talent. In order to attract and keep the best and brightest at the U, we need to provide them with a world-class environment. The last major addition to College of Engineering infrastructure was over 20 years ago in the building of the Warnock Engineering Building. At a time of rapid technological change, and when others are competing for talent, Utah can continue to make major contributions in computing and many other fields by investing in the expansion of our computer science facilities.

We can and will continue to make the U a foundational school for the advancement of technology, its applications, and impact on local businesses. In 2000, we came together to support the construction of the student-centric Warnock Engineering Building. We encourage you to join us in thinking boldly about the future, and the need for a flagship computer science facility that reflects Utah's economic dynamism.

John Warnock

Ed Catmull

Shane Robison

IN SUPPORT OF THE BUILDING CAMPAIGN FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

In response to the critical shortfall of computer science and computer engineering graduates needed to sustain Utah's economy, we join John Warnock, Ed Catmull, and Shane Robison in strongly endorsing College of Engineering Dean Rich Brown's vision for a new computing building. As the state's major supplier of highly qualified technical graduates, the University of Utah needs to at least double its output of computing degrees to meet current and future needs. These graduates are essential to the long term success of companies from Logan to St. George.