Leading the Way (pictured above from left to right) Norman Tien, dean and Nord Professor of Engineering, Case School of Engineering; Stephen H. Hoffman, president, Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; Ronald B. Richard, president and CEO, The Cleveland Foundation; and Barbara R. Snyder, president, Case Western Reserve University.

A $3.6 million grant from the Cleveland Foundation and a $2 million grant from the Maltz Family Foundation of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland are providing leadership support to attract the brightest minds to the institute. Corporate partnerships have resulted in $376,000 in industry-sponsored energy research over the past three years. Individual donors are also embracing the institute as a worthy investment, seeing it as an opportunity to leverage their impact on the global energy problem. Government funding at the federal, state, and local levels has also been critical to the university’s efforts in energy innovation. The university has received a combined $4.3 million in energy-related research support from appropriations and competitively awarded federal grants.

On the state level, the institute will pursue Third Frontier awards—which have already benefited the Wright Fuel Cell Group—in a number of energy categories. State support has also been secured for the construction of a multiple-use research facility on the West Campus.

Case Western Reserve has also entered into a partnership with the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, The Cleveland Foundation, and the Greater Cleveland Partnership to sponsor a feasibility study to develop and potentially manage the operations of a Great Lakes Wind Energy Research Center, which would be the first freshwater offshore wind project in the world.

Supporting Students A $250,000 gift from Walter J. Culver, Ph.D. (CIT ’62/’64) (pictured above) will endow the Walter and Sylvia Culver Energy Fellowship, which will support graduate students in energy-related disciplines.

A Pipeline of Talent Mark Gelfand (not pictured), a friend of the institution with personal ties to the university and to Cleveland, has established the Engineering Technology Education Fund to help fund the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education component of the institute. It will help Case Western Reserve build a pipeline of talented students who take innovative approaches to problem solving.

It is especially exciting to be part of discussions about how to come up with global solutions.”
– Walter J. Culver, Ph.D. (CIT ’62/’64), who has endowed a graduate student fellowship at the institute.

Through the creation of The Great Lakes Institute for Energy Innovation, Case Western Reserve University is taking on one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century: the generation, transportation, utilization, and storage of energy. To ensure that the institute gets off to a strong start, a wide range of individual and institutional donors already has stepped forward with financial support—awarding grants and creating endowments to support the new institute’s faculty, students, research initiatives, and educational programming.

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