

Revolters plan to donate to SNC

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Confident that tax refunds will be paid in full by Washoe County, Incline's tax revolt group Wednesday voted for a commitment to donate to Sierra Nevada College a large portion of the returned tax money.

Though the seven board members of the League to Save Incline Assets do not speak for the 9,000 property owners slated to receive tax refunds, League to Save Incline Assets president Maryanne Ingemanson said she hopes the board's action will lead to the creation of a foundation at the college.

If a large group of homeowners participate, Ingemanson said the endowment goal would be \$6 million.

"For just the one year, 2006, if all of the 9,000 residents of Incline Village/Crystal Bay get the rollback and the refund plus interest that we won for them at the county board, that would be about \$13 million," she said. "About 5 percent would go to fill up our coffers, but we feel we can really help the community."

SNC spokeswoman Cindy McClelland Thursday she was "more than excited" when she heard the news.

"If you look at the big picture, something like a small college can long-term support the infrastructure of the town," she said. "Now you need money to support that."

The potential windfall coincides with the school's recent efforts to build a foundation.

"We're in the process of building the SNC foundation which will support scholarships," McClelland said. "So, the news from the (tax revolters) comes at a perfect time."

SNC officials also noted that the idea came from the tax revolt group, unsolicited.

"We felt it was a natural," Ingemanson said. "This will send a message to people who say 'these whining malcontents, why don't they pay their taxes and shut up'. We're trying to do something for education, we're making a statement that education is important.

"It's a huge step."

Ingemanson said the school's recently inked partnership with Knowledge Universe, a for-profit learning services company founded by part-time Incline resident Michael Milken, was also a draw.

"We're saying we support this collaboration and will do everything we can to support it and (SNC's) mission."

Last December, a state supreme court decision ruled in favor of 17 property owners, which the league feels would lead to community-wise property tax rollbacks and refunds dating to the 2002-03 tax year. Washoe County assessor Josh Wilson maintains the rollback, thus far, is applicable to the appellants only.

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