



August 12, 2004

Commissioner's Report Highlights of Notable Accomplishments in USHE

Grants and Contracts Awarded

As detailed in the Regents' "General Consent Calendar," the University of Utah has been awarded two grants/contracts totaling \$2.8 million, and Utah State University 8 grants totaling \$14.3 million since the last Board meeting.

In addition, it was announced this week that Utah State University is one of two universities in the nation to receive a \$10 million National Science Foundation grant to establish a "National Center for Engineering and Technology Education," (\$2 million for five years). The Center will be located at USU and will involve participation from BYU, UCLA, and others.

Governor Olene S. Walker and Lt. Governor Gayle McKeachnie held a press conference with Commissioner Kendell and Presidents Young and Hall to highlight that these two Research Universities combined have been awarded nearly one half a billion dollars in research grants during Fiscal Year 2004 (\$309 million for the University of Utah, and \$186 million for Utah State University).

University of Utah:

Jill Patterson, a recent U of U graduate with an M.F.A. in Modern Dance, was named Outstanding Student Performer at the National Festival of the American College Dance Festival Association held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in June. Participants represented 400 colleges and universities.

The U of U's Hospitals & Clinics has been named one of *U.S. NEWS & World Report's* Best Hospitals for the 11th year.

Utah State University:

Construction has begun on a new \$40 million student housing centerpiece consisting of six buildings, five of which will be four levels that will collectively house 512 students. It also includes a 604-car parking structure. The housing complex will be near the center of campus and near the student center. It is expected to be completed in 2006.

Weber State University:

Weber State University has received more than \$89,500 as part of a collaborative research grant from the National Science Foundation to study how curved mountain chains form. Geosciences professor Adolph Yonkee and WSU students will spend the next three summers conducting field research on mountains between Salt Lake City and Jackson, Wyoming.

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August 2004, Continued

**Southern Utah
University:**

Iron County School District, in partnership with Southern Utah University, is launching a charter school that will focus on Science, computing, and engineering. This partnership is made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the Gates Foundation. Classes will be offered in local high schools and at SUU. The high school students beginning this program in the ninth grade will generally finish two years of college by the end of high school.

Snow College:

Snow College recently hosted the Viola d'Amore Society's annual international convention. The group, comprised of illustrious viola and violin soloists from around the world, has met in places such as England, Germany, Poland, and this summer they trekked to Ephraim, Utah. Dr. Libor Ondras, a Snow employee from Slovakia, was instrumental in bringing the group to campus.

Dixie State College:

The Dixie State dental hygiene program collectively received the top score in the nation on the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam this year out of approximately 246 college and university dental hygiene programs. Since graduating its first class in 2000, DSC's program has now scored in the top 10 percent four of the five years and in the top five percent three of the five years.

**Salt Lake Community
College:**

The Main Street Learning Center will be up and running for Fall Semester to bring an academic presence to the downtown area. The Center's main focus will be on general education, but will also offer such courses as Intro to the Humanities, Intro to Chemistry, Personal Finance, and General Psychology, among others.

**Utah College of Applied
Technology:**

The Bridgerland Campus of UCAT recently awarded the Associate of Applied Technology (AAT) degree to three Mountain Crest High School students -- Austin Cranney, Kenneth Howell, and Eric Major -- who received their high school diploma and also their AAT Degree in Computer Aided Drafting and Design. These students are the first students in the state to receive an AAT degree as a part of their high school experience.