



September 10, 2004

Commissioner's Report Highlights of Notable Accomplishments in USHE

Grants and Contracts Awarded

Since the last Board of Regents meeting, the University of Utah was awarded a research grant in the amount of \$1,077,076 from the Public Health Service/National Institute of Child Health, for the "Utah Autism Program," William M. McMahon, Principal Investigator.

Systemwide

At a press conference at Salt Lake Community College's South City Campus on Thursday, Governor Walker officially launched an interactive website portal developed by the Workforce and Education Development Alliance, a partnership comprised of the Department of Workforce Services, Utah State Office of Education, Utah System of Higher Education, Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and Utah Interactive. "Careers.utah.gov" is a comprehensive school-to-retirement career exploration and planning solution that will assist students in selecting the most appropriate courses to prepare for work, technical training and/or college, ensuring a more educated and qualified workforce for Utah businesses.

University of Utah: University physicist Kai Martens and local officials in Millard County broke ground August 28 for the Telescope Array, a new \$18 M Japanese and American cosmic ray observatory designed to resolve the mysterious source of the highest-energy cosmic rays in the universe.

Utah State University: As part of the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc. (CUAHSI), Utah State University hosted a water conference, "Designing Hydrologic Observatories as a Community Resource," August 24 and 25. Utah State was chosen to host the conference because of its large commitment to hydrologic science and because of its leading role in water resources planning and engineering.

Weber State University: Jason Palmer, who graduated from WSU in May, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to Taiwan in the field of Teaching English as a Foreign Language. He will spend eleven months working as a teaching assistant with elementary school students. Palmer is the second WSU student in as many years to receive a Fulbright grant.

Southern Utah University: SUU Alumnus and KSL radio news reporter Ben Winslow has been awarded the Edward R. Murrow award for excellence in broadcasting. This award demonstrates the quality of the hands-on experience available to students in

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September 2004, Continued

SUU, continued: the communication program at SUU. The Murrow Award is one of the top awards available to reporters in the field of electronic journalism.

Snow College: Brian Romney, a May 2004 graduate from Pleasant Grove, is a pre-med major and former Snow all-American wide receiver. He received a full ride academic scholarship to Cornell where he will also be playing football.

Dixie State College: Representing DSC's Phi Beta Lambda chapter, students Chad Staheli and Greg Whitehead won second place in the nation in the Emerging Business Issues category at the Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference in Denver, Colorado. Previously they had won first place at the state conference in 2004. Both are enrolled in DSC's four-year business administration program.

College of Eastern Utah: A new choral composition by CEU professor Russell Wilson will be featured at the "Memorial for Heroes Concert" at Constitutional Hall, in Washington D.C., on September 11, 2004. Wilson's composition is the culmination of five years work based on the historical *Prelude to Glory* novels. The concert will feature the National Philharmonic Orchestra with over three hundred singers from across the nation. Utah's Senator Orrin Hatch will narrate the Washington performance.

Salt Lake Community College: The Skills Center Medical Coding program was created one year ago and the first students are beginning to complete the program. An impressive 78% of the students passed the Certified Professional Coder's (CPC) Exam on the first try—compared to a national first-time pass rate of 30%.

Utah College of Applied Technology: Keisa Hales, a student in the UCAT Ogden-Weber campus' Pharmacy Technician program, has completed the Pharmacy Tech I segment, and now plans to complete the Pharmacy Tech II course. Keisa's goal after finishing the Pharmacy Tech program is to relocate to Las Vegas and pursue a career in pharmaceutical marketing where she will also put to work her 2004 Bachelor's degree in Marketing and Management from USU.