



Commissioner's Report Highlights of Notable Accomplishments in USHE

- University of Utah:** The University of Utah football team ended its season undefeated (12-0) and became the first non-BCS team to compete in a BCS bowl – the Fiesta Bowl. The Utes went on to beat the University of Pittsburgh in a nationally broadcast game on New Year's Day in Tempe, Arizona.
- Utah State University:** The university made history Saturday, Dec. 18, at the first fall commencement ceremony, which included some 600 graduates and attracted nearly 4,000 participants. President Hall called the graduates attending the university's 112th Commencement "student pioneers."
- Weber State University:** Weber State University broadcast students won first place in eight out of 15 categories at a recent National Broadcasting Society regional competition, including a sweep of the video news program category. WSU competed against more than 60 entries from around the region. Weber State's eight winning submissions will advance to the national NBS student audio-video production competition. Those winners will be announced in March.
- Southern Utah University:** A Southern Utah University faculty member, a staff member and a student produced a commercial that was selected as a winner by the Utah Film Commission to promote the business of motion picture and television production in the state of Utah. The commercial will be shown in between films at the world famous Sundance Film Festival taking place this month in Park City. The commercial was produced by SUU Communication Department Chair Jon Smith, SUTV Manager Lee Byers and senior broadcasting students Susannah Hicken and Jerame Tyree. The commercial was selected as a winner from among 115 entries.
- Snow College:** Former Snow Badger football players fared well this past season at Division I programs throughout the country: Brian Romney (2003), the first Snow player to earn an Ivy League academic scholarship, led Cornell University in receptions and was named All Ivy League Honorable Mention. Deuce Lutui (2003) started at right tackle for national champion USC. John Madsen (2002) caught Alex Smith's first touchdown pass in Utah's victory over Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl. Paul Peterson (2002) led

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Boston College to victory over North Carolina in the Continental Tire Bowl and was named the game's Most Valuable Player, despite breaking his leg in the fourth quarter.

Dixie State College: Three Dixie State College business management students placed in the top 25 of the Capstone Challenge, an international business simulation competition, this past fall semester. Competing against 130 other colleges and universities, Dixie State's R.J. (Rory) Mathews and Neils Nisson earned 11th place and Kody Young earned 21st place. Rankings were based according to highest cumulative profit.

Utah Valley State College: Utah Valley State College's professors of biology, Renee Van Buren and Jim Harris, received a grant of \$106,000 from the National Science Foundation to create an Online Herbarium Collections project. In addition, Professor Van Buren was awarded the 2004 Nature Conservancy of Utah Conservation Partnership Award for her work on endangered plant species.

Salt Lake Community College: The Salt Lake Community College Division of Nursing developed partnerships with the Department of Workforce Services, the IASIS Corporation and Intermountain Health Care to provide nursing training. This will enable additional students the opportunity to complete a nursing program and help alleviate the nursing shortage that exists both in the Salt Lake region and across the country.

Utah College of Applied Technology: The Salt Lake/Tooele (SLTATC) campus continues to generate successful graduates of its Pharmacy Technician program. All 20 SLTATC Pharmacy Tech students who took the July 2004 National Pharmacy Technician Certification Test passed. Of the 16 students who took the November 2004 National Pharmacy Technician Certification Test, 15 passed. The Pharmacy Technician program has an 80 percent completion rate, and of those completers, all were employed in the field with a placement rate of 100 percent.