



Commissioner's Report Highlights of Notable Accomplishments in USHE

As detailed in the Regents' General Consent Calendar, \$14.7 million in research grants has been awarded – \$11.7 million to the University of Utah and \$3 million to Utah State University – since the last Board meeting.

University of Utah: University of Utah's Mines and Earth Sciences dean, Frank Brown, co-authored a study that moves back the origin of man to 195,000 years ago. The study, published Feb. 17 in the journal, *Nature*, determined that fossils of modern humans found in Kibish, Ethiopia in 1967, were 195,000 years old, not 130,000 years old as previously thought.

Utah State University: Utah State University provided world water expertise to earn part of a \$2 billion contract from the U.S. Agency for International Development's Integrated Water and Coastal Resources Management Program. USU will join with other university and private sector partners on the project.

Weber State University: Weber State University will host its 20th annual National Undergraduate Literature Conference (NULC) on March 30. The NULC is the only literature conference in the country that focuses exclusively on undergraduates. The event will feature 250 students from across the nation and include two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author Norman Mailer as a keynote speaker.

Southern Utah University: Dr. Steven Pinker, recently named one of *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential Thinkers of 2004," delivered the Grace A. Tanner Distinguished Lecture at Southern Utah University. Pinker is currently a Johnstone Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, a position he assumed after 21 years at MIT. He is the author of the 2002 *New York Times* bestseller and Pulitzer Prize finalist, "The Blank Slate: The Modern Denial of Human Nature."

Snow College: Snow College's DEX Club (Delta Epsilon Chi, a national organization for students seeking careers in marketing, management, merchandizing and entrepreneurship) qualified for the national competition during the state competitions at Dixie State College. The 13-member team placed in all eight categories, including winning two first-place and four second-place honors.

Dixie State College: For the second straight year, the Dixie State College nursing program earned a first-time pass rate of 90 percent

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or above on the Registered Nurse licensure examination (RN-NCLEX). DSC's 2004 class achieved a collective pass rate of 93.55 percent. Twenty-nine of 31 RN graduates from DSC's associate degree of nursing program passed the exam on their first attempt.

**Utah Valley
State College:**

Utah Valley State College's Planning, Budgeting and Accountability (PBA) process is gaining national and international recognition for its innovation as an effective and transparent resource management system. As a result, President Sederburg and other UVSC administrators will present the PBA process at the regional Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) conferences in Portland and Washington, D.C.

**Salt Lake Community
College:**

The Salt Lake Community College Jordan Campus Dental Hygiene Clinic hosted "Give Kids A Smile" which provided dental care to underprivileged children ages 12 and under. Fifteen first-year dental hygiene students and 30 dentists from the community donated their time and expertise to provide complete dental care to more than 100 children and partial dental care and vouchers to another 150 children.

**Utah College of Applied
Technology:**

The Southwest Applied Technology College (SWATC) was recently selected as an "AmeriCorps State" site and looks forward to utilizing the AmeriCorps program to provide important services to adult students in Beaver, Garfield, Iron and Kane counties. SWATC's application focused on increasing adult computer literacy, workplace skills and basic literacy needed for successful employment. AmeriCorps volunteers will be placed in the outlying counties and provide important coordination with Department of Workforce Services local offices.