



Commissioner's Report Highlights of Notable Accomplishments in USHE

As detailed in the Regents' General Consent Calendar, \$14.3 million in research grants has been awarded – \$11.7 million to the University of Utah and \$2.6 million to Utah State University – since the last Board meeting.

University of Utah: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) have designated the University of Utah as one of the “Best Workplaces for Commuters.” This places the U in the top one percent of employers in the U.S. for providing outstanding commuter benefits to its employees and for helping to reduce traffic and air pollution. Approximately 25 percent of the U's students, faculty and staff commute to campus via mass transit.

Utah State University: Research and a resulting prototype by Utah State University faculty member and robotics inventor Vladimir Kulyukin has been highlighted around the world. His robotic guide for the visually impaired — a "robot guide dog," as it's termed by the media — has been featured in *USA Today*, *PC Magazine*, *South China Morning Post*, *Electronic Engineering Times*, and in newspapers, broadcasts and publications in the United States, Asia, Italy, Germany, Poland, Greece and Scotland. Web sites, including *eWeek.com*, *itnews.com*, *CIOinsight.com* and *extremetech.com*, have picked up the story, as has the BBC News.

Weber State University: Members of the Northern Utah Child Care Resource and Referral Agency staff, housed in the Jerry & Vickie Moyes College of Education at WSU, will be working at Utah's Camp Williams to provide child care to some of the smallest refugees of Hurricane Katrina. The staffers will tend to some of the approximately 40 children relocated from New Orleans, while their parents are away working to get their lives back to normal.

Southern Utah University: Southern Utah University's progressive Integrated Engineering Bachelor's Degree program has just received accreditation from ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). This gives SUU the first and only ABET-accredited integrated Engineering program in the United States. This unique program trains generalist engineers so the majority of small and medium-sized companies in Utah, and the West, can afford to hire a single

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employee to meet the vast majority of their needs. Not only was the program accredited for the maximum period allowed, it was given the distinction without any conditions. All of the graduates in this program are already gainfully employed in a variety of government and private sector positions around the state of Utah.

Snow College:

Scott Wilson, Snow's director of jazz studies, was named by the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) as the conductor for the 2006 IAJE Collegiate All-Star Band. The collegiate band will perform at the IAJE convention in NYC this January.

College of Eastern Utah:

This year, 11 of 12 registered nursing students from the College of Eastern Utah San Juan campus passed their state board examinations on their first attempt, and all 18 licensed practical nursing students passed their exams. On the Price campus, 18 of 19 registered nursing students and all 28 licensed practical nursing students have passed their exams on their first attempt.

Dixie State College:

For the first time in its five-year history, the Dixie State College Hurricane Education Center is offering daytime classes this fall semester in addition to its regularly scheduled evening classes to accommodate student demand. Approximately one-third of the courses being taught this fall at the Hurricane Center are being taught during daytime hours. When DSC first began offering classes in the Hurricane area in 1995, a total of 34 students were enrolled in two courses. That number jumped to 242 in 2000, once the college moved into its own facility. Nearly 500 students are enrolled in 32 courses this semester at the Hurricane Center.

**Utah Valley
State College:**

President Sederburg is one in a small group of university presidents invited to gather at the University of Oxford in England to participate in the "Oxford Conclave for Global Ethics and the Changing University Presidency." The group's objective is to: 1) define a new understanding of the university presidency in the context of the "global village;" 2) draft a Declaration of Principles stating how university leaders, working together, might be a stronger voice for global ethics, both in society and on their own campuses;

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and 3) to make preliminary plans for a larger, international conference on Global Ethics and the University Presidency to be held in 2006.

Salt Lake Community College:

Students from Salt Lake Community College's finance and credit program participate in an internship program with Northwestern Financial. This program has proven to be a very successful training opportunity and has been the catalyst for launching several very successful careers for SLCC graduates. This year the SLCC intern team competed against 250 teams across the United States and took 3rd place. SLCC student Jodi Vawdrey took 9th place after competing against 1,000 students from four-year and graduate business schools across the nation.

Utah College of Applied Technology:

The Southwest Campus of the Utah College of Applied Technology (SWATC), now an AmeriCorps State site, has used AmeriCorps funding to hire eight AmeriCorps members. One member is stationed in St. George, one in Milford, and the remaining six in Cedar City. SWATC has collaborated with local Workforce Services offices and has assigned AmeriCorps members to provide basic computer training in the local Workforce Services office. The members will also serve as liaisons between Workforce Services customers and SWATC.

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