



Commissioner's Report Highlights of Notable Accomplishments in USHE

As detailed in the Regents' General Consent Calendar, \$6.8 million in research grants has been awarded to Utah State University since the last Board meeting.

University of Utah: Three University of Utah faculty members, a former vice president for research and a university graduate who works in the state crime laboratory are among 11 winners of the 2005 Utah Governor's Medal for Science and Technology. The winners included University of Utah professors Richard Grow, electrical and computer engineering; David Hoepfner, mechanical engineering; and Z. Vally Vardeny, physics. All three won in the academic category. In addition, a medal for special achievement went to Richard Koehn, who served as University of Utah vice president for research during 1992-2000 and who now works as president and chief executive officer of Sentrax Surgical, Inc., a company that is a spin-off of research at the university. A fifth winner is University of Utah graduate Pilar Shortsleeve, supervising criminalist at the Utah Department of Public Safety Bureau of Forensic Services.

Utah State University: Utah State University's Innovation Campus celebrated its 20th anniversary Nov. 21. The research park is home to Utah State's Space Dynamics Laboratory, the university's technology and commercialization management office, the USU Research Foundation, and Gemini Life Sciences, as well as 45 businesses.

Weber State University: Yasmen Simonian has been named the 2005 Utah Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Simonian, professor and chairwoman of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, joined the Weber State University faculty in 1981. She and her colleagues pioneered the development and delivery of entire CLS AAS and BS degree programs online.

Southern Utah University: On Nov. 15, Iron County citizens, along with the Southern Utah University community of students and employees, received the distinguished opportunity of hearing Mr. Oleg Popov, the Minister of Culture to the Siberian province of Tomsk and Mikhail Gorbachev's biographer, speak on some intriguing details about life in Russia. He shared many

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behind-the-scenes details about the former President Gorbachev and the making of Popov's book, "Gorby: A Biography of Mikhail Gorbachev." Popov's presentation was part of SUU's convocations series which regularly brings presenters of international impact to the campus.

Snow College:

Three Snow College jazz musicians have been selected from a national search into the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) All Star Community College Jazz Band. Members of the band will fly to New York in January to perform at the IAJE International Conference. Snow College is tied with Florida Community College in total members selected into the band. This is the highest honor at the junior college level. The students are: Brian Sullivan – trombone; Shinichiro Kuroda – drums; Imai Atsushi – trumpet; Kevin Hick - first alternate trombone.

College of Eastern Utah:

The College of Eastern Utah recently wrapped up its 20th annual presentation of the "Nutcracker Ballet" under the direction of Carolyn Gwyther, faculty advisor to the Ballet Repertory Ensemble. This production has become a family tradition in Carbon and Emery counties and serves as the kickoff to the holiday season.

Dixie State College:

Mark L. Petersen, executive director of cultural arts, has been named Communicator of the Year (District VI) by the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR), in part, for his work in unveiling and promoting Dixie State College's new Eccles Fine Arts Center during its inaugural year. The Communicator of the Year Award is one of the most prestigious awards presented by NCMPR and honors a college communications professional who has demonstrated leadership and ability in the area of college communications and marketing.

**Utah Valley
State College:**

The Utah Valley State College Planning, Budgeting and Accountability (PBA) model continues to gain national recognition as an innovative and effective process in managing institutional strategic initiatives and resources. In April 2006, at the annual American Council on Education conference, President Sederburg and Trustee Chair Dan Campbell will, by invitation, share the UVSC PBA model.

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**Salt Lake Community
College:**

Salt Lake Community College's 2005 Tanner Forum on Social Ethics was held on Nov. 9, 2005, in the South City Campus Grand Theatre and featured Ms. Loung Ung, activist, author and survivor of the Khmer Rouge. Ms. Ung's message, sponsored by the generous support of the O. C. Tanner Foundation in partnership with Salt Lake Community College, provided a gripping message, "Peace is not automatic, it is an action." Following the lecture, she met with audience members, signed books, and made a special effort to meet with Southeast Asian SLCC students. Her lecture was attended by more than 900 students, staff, faculty, and community members.

**Utah College of Applied
Technology:**

In November, the Mountainland campus (MATC) of the Utah College of Applied Technology has began construction on its new Spanish Fork campus. This campus will help up to 400 students, including high school students, gain career skills each year. Another nearby building will be refurbished for the college's automotive program. Slated to open in August 2006, the campus will also house a planned licensed practical nursing program, which will serve up to 60 students.

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