



## **Commissioner's Report Highlights of Notable Accomplishments in USHE**

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**As detailed in the Regents' General Consent Calendar, \$1.8 million in research grants has been awarded to Utah State University since the last Board meeting.**

**University of Utah:** The University of Utah received 3.4 million in federal dollars for two new research and development centers focused on energy production technologies. These two research centers are targeted at developing new technologies that will take advantage of Utah's vast heavy oil resources contained in oil shale and oil sands, as well as the abundant coal supplies in eastern Utah.

**Utah State University:** A ribbon cutting and open house were held for the Manon Caine Russell Kathryn Caine Wanlass Performance Hall Jan. 12 on the Utah State University campus – centerpiece of the new Caine School of the Arts. A gala opening concert was held Jan. 14. The multi-million dollar facility is a 20,000-square-foot venue that features a 400-seat hall, a stage for up to 22 performers and a lobby with glass windows overlooking a new plaza. The performance hall, with its state-of-the-art acoustics, is the result of a generous gift from sisters Manon Caine Russell and Kathryn Caine Wanlass. Their gift was the largest individual gift in the university's history.

**Weber State University:** Weber State University's Ott Planetarium has received a \$1 million appropriation from the United States Congress to expand its educational outreach efforts to students throughout the region. The money will fund WSU's Planetarium Learning and New Education Technology (PLANET) project, an effort to expand interest and understanding of science among children in Utah and around the country. A key component of the project involves translating star shows into Spanish to reach out to Utah's growing Spanish-speaking population.

**Southern Utah University:** Nolan Gray, a junior majoring in integrated engineering at Southern Utah University, has successfully built a jet engine with the implementation of Solid Modeling software and his own design. Nolan is already working at Bulloch Bros. Engineering firm as a civil designer. SUU's Integrated Engineering program is the only one of its kind in the state

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higher education system, and one of only a few in the entire country. It is the only ABET-accredited program of its kind.

**Snow College:**

This spring semester, three of Snow College's outstanding musicians are entering the professional performing world. Nate Anderson (drums), Kevin Hicks (trombone), and Bob Heller (trombone) are performing in Japan's Universal Studios brass band. All three will return to Snow College in the fall with more than enough money saved to cover their education expenses. Over the past 18 months, five Snow College musicians have gone straight from the Horne School of Music into professional work experience.

**College of Eastern Utah:**

The College of Eastern Utah has received a two-year, \$2.7 million federal grant to establish a Regional Energy Training Center. The college will partner with Workforce Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Southeast UCAT and the Southeast Utah Energy Producers Association.

**Dixie State College:**

Tennille Olsen and Joseph Winter are students in Dixie State College's new communication and new media baccalaureate program. Two of their television commercials will air at the Sundance Film Festival as winners of the Utah Film Commission's third annual "Spot On" Commercial Contest. The entry is one of just six commercial entries selected to represent the Commission on Park City Television's "In the Can" program, which has become required viewing for many motion picture executives. The spots will later air in the Los Angeles and New York markets.

**Utah Valley  
State College:**

The Utah Foundation conducted an independent study comparing "the current employment and educational status of 2004 graduates from all major colleges and universities in Utah, along with information about salaries they are earning after one year in the workforce." The following are excerpts from the study's findings: "Graduates from Weber, UVSC, Westminster and Utah are most likely to stay in Utah after graduation... The highest salaries for 2004 bachelor's degree graduates are earned by UVSC graduates... UVSC graduates overwhelmingly lead the way in terms of employment with 83.9% of its graduates in the

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workforce and 78.4% employed full-time... Given UVSC's mission and focus, UVSC graduates typically major in fields of study that translate into higher starting salaries (e.g. business, marketing, computer information science, and vocational studies).”

**Salt Lake Community College:**

The Chronicle of Higher Education announced the Salt Lake Community College Concurrent Enrollment Program has been accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP). Currently, there are ten higher education institutions in the United States that have been accredited by NACEP.

**Utah College of Applied Technology:**

In December, the Ogden-Weber Campus of the Utah College of Applied Technology (OWATC) made a record profit of \$28,829 on the sale of a home built by students and sold by the Utah Housing Corporation (UHC). This partnership allows technical colleges to focus on providing hands-on building experience for students in all aspects of home building, while UHC takes care of the administrative aspects.

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