



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

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**As detailed in the Regents' General Consent Calendar, \$8.6 million in research grants has been awarded – \$2.8 million to the University of Utah and \$5.8 million to Utah State University – since the last Board meeting.**

- University of Utah:** The University of Utah has moved up in classification in the prestigious Carnegie Foundation rankings of research institutions. The U is now ranked "very high" in research activity, moving up from the "high" classification. The Carnegie Foundation looked at more than 4,000 universities nationwide and using their new classification system, ranked only 95 of them in the highest category for research institutions.
- Utah State University:** **USU President Stan Albrecht led a team of students, administrators, professors and staff on a highly successful three-day "Road Scholars" recruitment tour to sites along the Wasatch Front. President Albrecht and his team met with almost 2,000 prospective students and their parents as part of an aggressive, face-to-face campaign to take USU's messages "on the road" during recruiting season. The president spent his days with Legislators; at nights he courted the top students in Utah.**
- Weber State University:** **Three Weber State University Theatre Arts majors won regional honors from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region VIII for their stage and lighting design work. The cast of WSU's "Grasmere" production received a meritorious award for ensemble acting. Junior Cliff Wallgren, who was honored for his lighting design, now advances to compete in the Kennedy Center's national festival, which will be held in Washington, D.C., in April.**
- Southern Utah University:** **Southern Utah University is pleased to announce the establishment of its first-ever endowed chair. The Beverley Taylor Sorenson Endowed Professorial Chair for Elementary Arts Education is being established in the field of education and teacher training – the original purpose for which SUU was created. This pivotal teaching and leadership position is aimed at preparing talented teachers who have expertise and passion for the arts and will provide inspired teaching for elementary students in the arts.**
- Snow College:** **The Utah Music Educators Association has named President Michael Benson the "2005 Outstanding Administrator". The award is given annually to an administrator working to improve Utah's musical culture. During President Benson's administration, Snow College has built the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Center for the Performing Arts, become an All-Steinway school, inked an exclusive deal with Juilliard to**

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provide a summer Jazz workshop and announced more than \$400,000 in music scholarship pledges.

**College of Eastern Utah:** The Utah Theatre Association recognized 19-year veteran CEU Professor of Theatre Arts Grady McEvoy with an Award of Appreciation for his lifetime of service to Utah theatre. Grady has been involved in more than 150 productions throughout the state, including 76 at the college.

**Dixie State College:** Some of the ongoing research of Dr. Jerry Harris, director of paleontology at Dixie State College, was featured in an hour-long documentary called "Rise of the Feathered Dragons," which made its debut on the Science Channel in February. The documentary stems from research Harris and two of his colleagues have done in northwestern China involving dinosaurs and the origin of birds. The documentary details the group's reinvestigation of an area that had been explored in the 1980s, but where nobody had returned since. More than two decades later, Harris and his colleagues have begun quarrying in that area and have found dozens of specimens, mostly of birds, but also some turtles, salamanders, plants, insects, and fish. The documentary will be rebroadcast March 12, 13, and 19.

**Utah Valley State College:** Utah Valley State College sent seven students and a nursing professor as part of the Hirsche Smiles project to Guatemala in late February. They were able to operate on 60 children.

**Salt Lake Community College:** Salt Lake Community College's Institutional Marketing Department "Summer 2005" radio advertising campaign took top honors in Admission Marketing Report's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Advertising Awards competition winning a gold medal for Radio/Series in the Business, Trade and Vocational Schools category.

**Utah College of Applied Technology:** Two employees of the Southwest Campus of the Utah College of Applied Technology have been recognized for their professional contributions to the college and its students. The Cedar City Chamber of Commerce has named Grace Vlasich as the Educator of the Year. Grace is an outstanding health sciences instructor and program coordinator. She has been instrumental in developing and expanding SWATC's health science programs. Custom Fit Program Coordinator Kristie McMullin has been named to the Governor's Commission on Aging. Kristie is widely known for her energy and willingness to serve the citizens of southern Utah.