



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

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**As detailed in the Regents' General Consent Calendar, \$3 million in research grants has been awarded – \$1.2 million to the University of Utah and \$1.8 million to Utah State University – since the last Board meeting.**

**University of Utah:** University of Utah Biologist, Baldomero "Toto" Olivera, who has spent his career developing new medicines from the toxins of deadly cone snails, has won a four-year, \$1 million award as one of 20 new "Million-Dollar Professors" named by the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI).

**Utah State University:** The Merrill-Cazier Library was dedicated April 14. With \$40 million in funding from the Utah State Legislature, the new structure replaces the 70-year-old Merrill Library and expands the existing Cazier "Sci-Tech" Library. The new facility includes a 150-computer Information Commons, a state-of-the-art automated storage and retrieval system, and ample study areas with natural light and mountain views. The 305,000-square-foot library is at the heart of campus and honors two former USU administrators, Milton R. Merrill and Stanford O. Cazier.

**Weber State University:** Weber State University broadcast students brought home two grand-prize awards at the National Broadcast Society's national student electronic media competition, held in Washington, D.C. WSU senior Blake Johnson, from Farmington, won first place in the open category for a DVD he authored. The WSU video production team's graduation video won first place in the industrial/instructional/promotional category. This is the third year the graduation video has been a finalist at the national competition and the second time it has won the grand prize.

**Southern Utah University:** Southern Utah University has received two specialized accreditations. The first is from The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International. The second accreditation comes from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, to give the stamp of approval for the nursing degree program a month before the first class graduates in May. The recognition is important, but the timing of this recognition is a great accomplishment for any program or discipline.

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- Snow College:** Elie Wiesel - recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 - will deliver the Tanner Lecture on Human Values at Snow College Monday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Eccles Center for the Performing Arts on Snow's Ephraim campus. Wiesel is a holocaust survivor and is most recognized for his book "Night" - a memoir of his experiences in Nazi death camps during World War II. Wiesel will be the guest of honor at a luncheon that day in Salt Lake City, prior to his address in Ephraim. The title of Wiesel's speech is "Forgiveness."
- College of Eastern Utah:** In the recent state-wide Skills USA competition, the College of Eastern Utah was well represented. CEU students placed first in five areas in which they competed: Auto Mechanics Technician, Welding, Job Skills Demonstration, Prepared Speech, and Job Interview. Five students qualified for the national competition which will be held in Kansas City, Missouri in June.
- Dixie State College:** In March, Mark L. Petersen, executive director of cultural arts, was named National Communicator of the Year and was honored as such at NCMPR's national conference in Austin, Texas. Peterson won the honor for his work in unveiling and promoting DSC'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:** Twenty-five undergraduate researchers and five faculty mentors presented the results of their studies at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Asheville, North Carolina. Student presentations were from the areas of dance, English, astronomy, business, technology, computing, and other disciplines across campus. Studies included such topics as: "The Truth of Lies: Reality and Narrative Deception of Life of Pi," "Women Entrepreneurs: Once Just Rocked the Cradle Now Rocking the World of Business," "In Search of a Fast-Growing Halophile from the Great Salt Lake: A Heavily Polluted Natural Ecosystem."

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**Salt Lake Community  
College:**

**Last week, Dr. Cynthia A. Bioteau was inaugurated as Salt Lake Community College's 7<sup>th</sup> president. Dr. Bioteau joined the college July 17, 2005. She has more than 30 years of experience as an educator and administrator. Dr. Bioteau is known for her passion for positioning the community college at the core of economic and workforce development and building partnerships with business, industry, education, community, and governmental agencies.**

**Utah College of Applied  
Technology:**

**Eight years ago, the Southeast Campus of the Utah College of Applied Technology began a Residential Construction Program with all building materials provided by charitable donors. The main thrust of the program has been to engage "at risk" high school students and out-of-school adults in a special construction class to build octagon hogans (traditional Navajo houses). Students' academic abilities are being improved by linking academics to real-world situations. Culturally appropriate, high-quality housing is being made available for the needy elderly of the community. The 12<sup>th</sup> dwelling is now being completed.**