

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**December 4, 2007**



**Regents' Chair Recommends David Buhler  
as Interim Commissioner**  
***The board will vote on the appointment on Dec. 14***

Jed Pitcher, chair of the State Board of Regents, has recommended David L. Buhler as interim commissioner for the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). It is anticipated the Board will approve the appointment at its regularly scheduled meeting on Dec. 14. Buhler will assume his responsibilities as interim CEO for the system on January 1, when Commissioner of Higher Education Richard E. Kendell retires. The Regents continue their search for Kendell's replacement.

"Dave has the experience and skills needed to navigate the system through the legislative session and other significant issues and events," said Board of Regents Chair Jed Pitcher. "The Board is confident in Dave's leadership abilities and knows that he will maintain the momentum and progress that has been accomplished under Commissioner Kendell. We are excited to work with Dave in this new role and know he will do a tremendous job as he is well respected and extremely competent."

Since 2000, Buhler has served as USHE's associate commissioner for public affairs, handling media and government relations, and working closely with the board, the commissioner, and institutions on policy issues. He is also a member of the Salt Lake City Council, elected in 1999 and re-elected in 2003, representing District 6 and serving twice as council chair. He completes his service on the council this year.

"I am honored to assume this responsibility and look forward to working with the regents, the presidents, the governor, the Legislature and the staff in a new capacity," said Buhler. "I respect and admire Commissioner Kendell's work and will do my best to ensure our stakeholders, including the students we serve, understand the importance of investing in higher education."

Buhler's previous public experience includes serving one term as a Utah State Senator (1995-1999), where he was senate chair of the Administrative Services and Capital Facilities Appropriations Subcommittee and vice chair of the

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Executive Appropriations Committee. Governor Norman Bangerter appointed Buhler to serve as executive director of the Utah Department of Commerce (1989-1992), supervising seven divisions and 200 employees. He was also a member of Governor Bangerter's staff from 1985 to 1989.

Buhler served as the chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Workers' Compensation Reform (1993). He has also been a member of the University of Utah's Board of Trustees, the Utah Heritage Foundation Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees of This is the Place Foundation, Chairman of the Utah Privatization Policy Board, the Board of Governors of Salt Lake City School Volunteers, the Advisory Board of the University of Utah's College of Social and Behavioral Science, and the National Leadership Council of the Utah Museum of Fine Arts at the University of Utah.

Buhler spent eight years in the private sector (1992-2000), as vice president of Experior Assessments, a private testing firm that provides licensure and certification examinations in more than 40 states.

He taught in the University of Utah's Department of Political Science as an adjunct professor from 1990 to 2006. He earned bachelor's degrees in political science and history from the University of Utah and his Master's in Public Administration from Brigham Young University.

Dave and his wife, Lori, are the parents of five children.

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