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December 7, 2007

**Higher Ed Commissioner Recommends Consolidation of SLTATC/SLCC
plus “Safe Harbor” Status for Six UCAT Campuses**
Announcement follows Regents’ release of regional study

Commissioner of Higher Education Richard E. Kendell has released “A Study of the Organization and Delivery of Career and Technical Education (CTE) in the Salt Lake – Tooele Region.” Accompanying the study are Kendell’s findings and recommendations regarding the future delivery of CTE in the region.

Based on the report’s findings, Kendell is recommending that the State Board of Regents seek legislation to consolidate the Salt Lake-Tooele Applied Technology College (SLTATC), a campus of the Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT), with the Salt Lake Community College (SLCC). Kendell also recommends that the Board make it clear that six other UCAT campuses be provided a “safe harbor” and not be considered for any future consolidation.

“The consolidation of mission, role and responsibility in this region will maximize resources and best meet the needs of students and employers,” Kendell said. “Budgets and other assets should also be transferred to Salt Lake Community College. The question is, how does the state best provide career and technical education for students in the Salt Lake-Tooele region? The answer, it makes more sense to better utilize our existing community college than continue to support a competing and largely duplicative institution.”

His rationale for the recommendation includes:

- a. Elimination of long-standing mission and role overlap
- b. Increased programs and services for students through coordinated efforts
- c. Increased access to non-credit, credit and degree programs, as well as career pathway opportunities
- d. Single point of service for students and businesses for short-term training, Custom Fit Training, and credit and non-credit programs
- e. Better use of existing facilities; student access to the finest labs, equipment, faculty and staff in the nation; reduced competition for space; and elimination of future need for another higher education campus
- f. Decreased cost of instruction for CTE programs per student (FTE/Membership Hour)
- g. Better services and opportunities for students and employers through leveraging existing assets
- h. Current “strategic planning” strategy has not been fully effective and partnerships and alliances have had mixed results.

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Kendell's "safe harbor" recommendation would apply to the following UCAT regional campuses: Bridgerland, Davis, Ogden-Weber, Mountainland, Southwest, and Uintah Basin. This status indicates that no further consolidation studies will be conducted for these institutions unless some compelling reason suggests otherwise. He asks that the Board holds open the possibility of future studies regarding Dixie State College and the Dixie Applied Technology College until current studies of a University of Utah-Dixie State College Alliance and the Dixie State College/Southern Utah University partnership are completed and forwarded to the Regents.

The Board of Regents commissioned this study in September 2006 and it commenced in January 2007. A study team, chaired by Dr. Gary Carlston, consisted of members from the commissioner's staff, the State Office of Education, the Division of Facilities and Construction Management, UCAT, SLTATC, and SLCC. An advisory group representing public schools, public school board members, business and industry, SLCC, SLTATC, and the Department of Workforce Services guided the development of study questions and responded to the report as it developed. Independent observers held hearings of impacted stakeholders at the conclusion of the report.

The Regents will consider Kendell's recommendation and hear comments from others at their regularly scheduled meeting on Dec. 14 in Salt Lake City.

The report and the recommendations are online at www.utahsbr.edu.

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