



Who's Serving Higher Education? *Meet the Commissioner*

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education serves as staff for the Utah State Board of Regents. Regents named Richard E. Kendell as commissioner in 2003. Since then, Kendell has been proactively working to ensure collaboration between higher and public education; to raise awareness of the contributions higher education makes to the individual, community and state; to forge partnerships with Utah's business leaders; and to increase high school student preparation and college graduation rates.

Kendell has also been a major player in assisting the regents during presidential searches for Utah's 10 public colleges and universities. He understands the roles and missions of each school and the benefit of having the best leader at the helm.

Prior to his appointment as commissioner for higher education, Kendell served as Gov. Michael O. Leavitt's deputy for education.

He was also superintendent of schools for Davis School District, and has worked twice in the private sector. Kendell began his career as a high school English teacher.

Kendell's experience in higher education includes: acting chair of the Department of Leadership and Policy in the University of Utah's (U of U) School of Education, Associate Dean of the U of U School of Education, and associate dean of the U of U Graduate School.

Kendell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in English from Weber State University and his Master of Science and doctorate degrees in leadership and policy from the U of U.

Kendell is married to Joan, who has been an elementary school teacher and is active in educational programs. They are the parents of four married children and have 11 grandchildren.