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Contact: Amanda Covington, (801) 231-9511

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## Utah System of Higher Education Sees Modest Increase in New Funding

Salt Lake City – The State Legislature appropriated a modest increase in new state funding to the State Board of Regents and the Utah System of Higher Education during the 2008 General Legislative Session.

“Given the events surrounding the state budget and economic concerns, we feel the Legislature worked hard to treat us fairly,” said Interim Commissioner of Higher Education David L. Buhler. “The Utah System of Higher Education is constantly working to serve Utah students in their efforts to prepare for, attend and complete postsecondary education. The funding we have received will allow us to implement critical programs and meet our mandated costs. I’m particularly pleased that funding was provided to launch the Regents’ Scholarship program, which has the potential to encourage more students to prepare for and attend college.”

Excluding compensation, Utah’s 10 public higher education institutions, the Utah Education Network and the Medical Education Council received \$14.6 million in new tax funds: \$11.1 million in ongoing funds and \$3.46 million in one-time/supplemental money. Higher education institutions were funded to provide each employee with a 2 percent cost-of-living increase and were made available additional funds for discretionary increases based on merit, plus health insurance cost increases. The compensation package totals \$27.68 million. In summary, there is \$38.8 million in new, ongoing funding and \$4.4 million in new, one-time/supplemental funding for higher education.

As part of the total appropriation, the Legislature approved \$8.29 million in ongoing funds for the following programs and initiatives:

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|---|-------------|
| • Regents’ Scholarship                                    | \$400,000   |
| • New Century Scholarship                                 | \$800,000   |
| • Audit Staffing  | \$100,000   |
| • Institutional Priorities and Partnerships (UVSC to UVU) | \$2,000,000 |
| • Aerospace and Defense Employment (WSU)                  | \$800,000   |
| • Health Care Initiative (SLCC/DSC)                       | \$900,000   |
| • UU/DSC Partnership                                      | \$500,000   |
| • Prison Education  | \$150,000   |

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- DSC Music Program \$200,000
- Mandated Federal Aid State Match \$200,000
- Utah Education Network \$900,000
- Medical Education Council \$220,000
- New Building O&M \$1,125,000

The total appropriation also includes \$3.46 million in one-time funds for the following programs and initiatives:

- Engineering Initiative \$250,000
- Need Based Student Aid - (UCOPE) \$1,000,000
- Non-Lapsing Balance (One-time Cut) (\$1,000,000)
- Regents' Scholarship \$500,000
- Utah Education Network \$1,280,000
- Jobs Now Campus Initiatives \$1,000,000
- UCAT IT Infrastructure \$215,000
- UCAT Equipment \$900,000
- Concurrent Enrollment \$150,000
- IT Security \$815,000
- CEU Western Energy Training Center \$600,000
- O&M One-Time Cut (\$2,252,600)
- U of U Center on Aging One-time Comp \$6,700

The Legislature also approved \$71.49 million for the following capital facilities projects:

State-Funded

- Snow College Bond Payoff  
\$1.6 M
- Museum of Natural History at University of Utah  
\$25 M
- Utah State University Agricultural Research Building  
\$43.1 M (GO Bond Approval)
- Utah Valley State College Land Bank Purchase  
\$1.78 M

Non-State-Funded Projects Approved

- University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute Expansion
- University of Utah State Arboretum Visitors Center Renovation and Addition
- University of Utah Northwest Campus Parking Structure
- University of Utah Huntsman Cancer Hospital Phase II-B
- Utah State University Early Childhood Education and Research Center
- Utah State University Vernal Entrepreneurship and Energy Research Center
- Utah State University Building Addition
- Utah State University Hydraulics Laboratory Addition to the Water Lab
- Utah State University Structures Lab Enclosure
- Southern Utah University Shakespearean Theater
- Utah Valley State College Ray Noorda Children's Theater Addition

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