

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 17, 2013

**State Board of Regents Appoint
Interim President of Southern Utah University**
Search Committee Members also Named

OGDEN – At its meeting held today on the Ogden campus of Weber State University, the State Board of Regents appointed Dr. Richard E. Kendell as the Interim President of Southern Utah University, effective July 8, 2013. Dr. Kendell will take the place of outgoing SUU president Michael Benson, who has taken a job at Eastern Kentucky University. The Board of Regents is launching a thorough presidential search this month. Dr. Kendell, who is a well-respected and distinguished educator with a lengthy career in both public and higher education in Utah, will serve until a new president of SUU is selected.

“The Board and the SUU community are fortunate that former Commissioner Kendell is available to serve as interim president,” said Board of Regents Chair, Bonnie Jean Beesley. “Dr. Kendell’s experience, integrity, academic expertise, and management capabilities will provide a steady hand during the transition on campus that inevitably occurs during a university presidential search.”

Dr. Kendell served as Commissioner of Higher Education for five years. Prior to that he was Deputy of Public Education for Governor Michael Leavitt. He also spent 10 years as the superintendent of the Davis County school district, during which time he was named Utah Superintendent of the Year. Earlier in his career, he served as Associate Dean of two separate schools at the University of Utah, the School of Education and the Graduate School. His remarkable career also includes being an English teacher at Ogden High School, research analyst for the Utah System of Higher Education, and acting chair for the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah. Dr. Kendell was awarded the G. Homer Durham Regents Professorship by the Utah State Board of

Regents. In recognition of his accomplishments, the Davis County school district named its administration building in his honor and Southern Utah University endowed the Richard E. Kendell Chair in Education in 2007.

Dr. Kendell earned his bachelor’s degree in English from Weber State University, and both a master’s and PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah. His entire 35-year-long career has been in service to education. Richard Kendell and his wife, Joan, have four children and twelve grandchildren.

In addition to appointing Dr. Kendell, the Board of Regents named 21 members to the search committee for the next president of Southern Utah University. Regent Mark Stoddard will lead the committee, which is comprised of representatives from the Board of Regents, trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni of SUU, as well as community members from the university’s service region. A complete list of the search committee membership follows below. The search committee will hold three public meetings on Thursday, May 23rd at Southern Utah University to obtain input from members of the university community and the general public on the presidential search. More information about these meetings can be found on the SUU website at suu.edu

SUU PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Board of Regents	
Mark Stoddard	Search Committee Chair
Jed Pitcher	Regent
Bob Prince	Regent
Nina Barnes	Regent
SUU Board of Trustees	
Eric Leavitt	Trustee Chair Elect & Search Committee Vice Chair
Jim Johnson	Vice Chair
Mark Russell	SUU Alumni Association President/Executive Committee Member
Jeff Hertig	2013 SUU Student Association President
SUU Administration, Faculty, & Staff	
David Tanner	Vice President, Facilities Management & Planning
Robert Eves	Dean, College of Science
Shauna Mendini	Dean, College of Performing & Visual Arts
Julie Taylor	Faculty Senate President / Associate Professor of Physical Education
Patricia Keehley	Associate Professor of Political Science/Dir, MPA Program
Julie Larmore	Staff Association President/ Director, Facilities Business Ops & Strat Resource Planning
Community/Alumni Representatives	
Alma Adams	Iron County Commissioner
Ann Crocker	Shakespeare Board
Gayle Pollock	Former SUU Trustee Chair
John Yardley	Rural Community (Garfield) former Trustee Chair

Sunny Reinhold	Chair, National Advisory Board
Eric Schmutz	Pres, State Bank of Southern Utah
Marilee Stowell	Community Representative

About The Utah System of Higher Education: USHE includes all of Utah's eight public colleges and universities: The University of Utah, Utah State University, Weber State University, Southern Utah University, Snow College, Dixie State College, Utah Valley University and Salt Lake Community College. For more information on the Utah System of Higher Education, visit our website at <http://www.higheredutah.org>. Follow USHE on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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