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STATEMENT FROM COMMISSIONER DAVID L. BUHLER ON THE  
2013 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The Utah Legislature has done a good job for Higher Education this year. Two of the Board of Regents' top priorities received funding: Mission Based Funding and compensation, along with several other priorities of the Board of Regents and our colleges and universities.

Mission Based Funding, with \$18 million in new money, focuses on initiatives aimed at increasing college participation and completion and addresses inequities that have occurred within the system over many years. These funds are critical for Higher Education institutions in meeting their missions and in working toward the state's goal of 66 percent by 2020.

Higher Education also received partial funding of compensation. .

Other important priorities that received funding include expansion of our state's medical school at the University of Utah, construction of a new classroom building at Utah Valley University and design of a new science building at Weber State University, money to assist Dixie State University's transition, and continued support for the Regents' and New Century Scholarships.

The economic and quality of life benefits for Utahns, who earn a post-secondary credential, are well documented. The Legislature's support makes it possible for over 170,000 students to obtain a high quality, affordable education at Utah's institutions of higher education.

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