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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**October 9, 2012**

**Charles A. Wight Named New**

**President of Weber State University**

*Associate VP for Academic Affairs at the University of Utah selected to take the lead*

OGDEN, UT – The State Board of Regents have selected Dr. Charles A. Wight as the 12th President of Weber State University. Dr. Wight, who is currently Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Utah, will succeed Dr. F. Ann Millner. Millner is stepping down to return to the classroom, after 10 years as President and another two decades at WSU as an educator and administrator.

A 22-member Presidential Search Committee, chaired by Regent Bob Marquardt, narrowed the list down to four finalists announced last week after conducting a national search and consideration of nearly 50 potential candidates. The finalists went through an in-depth screening process and two days of interviews with representatives from WSU’s faculty, staff, students, and administration, as well as interviews with the Board of Regents.

“Dr. Wight brings a level of professionalism and experience in higher education that will be a true asset to Weber State University and to the Utah System of Higher Education as a whole,” said Bonnie Jean Beasley, Chair of the Board of Regents. “I am confident that Dr. Wight is the right leader at the right time for Weber State University,” added Dave Buhler, Utah Commissioner of Higher Education.

In his current position, Dr. Wight supports graduate students throughout the institution and promotes academic quality through a rigorous system of program reviews. Dr. Wight came to the University of Utah in 1984 as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, becoming a full professor in 1993. Since then he has held numerous positions at the U, including Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Assistant Vice President for Continuing Education. Dr. Wight received the R.W. Parry Teaching Award in Chemistry in 2006 and was named a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1994. He was also an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow from 1990-1994. Dr. Wight has filed three patent applications and published 150 peer-reviewed articles and two books. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a BS in Chemistry from the University of Virginia and received a PhD in Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology, where he received the best dissertation award.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead Weber State University in its next phase of development,” said President Wight. “Having spent the last 28 years as an educator and administrator at the University of Utah, I am excited to assume a position of leadership at Weber State University and help guide its mission of providing students with personalized learning experiences that will help them become responsible, educated members of their communities. I am committed to educational excellence, student engagement, service learning, and undergraduate research. I am eager to work collaboratively with WSU’s superb faculty, administration, trustees, and staff to keep the University moving along the positive trajectory it has been on during President Millner’s tenure.”

Weber State University is the state’s first comprehensive regional university that also retains a community college mission and one of eight institutions within the Utah System of Higher Education. Founded in 1889, Weber State University is an exceptional teaching university providing associate’s, bachelor’s and master's degrees in business, education, health professions, liberal arts, technology and sciences to meet the needs of the region. WSU offers more than 225 undergraduate certificate and degree programs, and 11 graduate degrees. Serving more than 26,000 students, drawn predominately from Utah but also including representatives from all 50 states and 49 foreign countries, WSU takes pride in its student-centered environment, meeting the needs of both traditional and nontraditional students. A multi-campus institution, WSU's Ogden campus, 35 miles north of Salt Lake City, features 60 buildings on 526 acres. A second campus, Weber State University Davis in Layton, Utah, is growing to meet increased needs and demands of Davis County residents.

*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>.

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