

# HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, July 2012

## Leadership Changes in the Commissioner's Office

*Sederburg to step down in August; Buhler named as new Commissioner*

Commissioner of Higher Education Bill Sederburg, who was named to the position in August 2008, will be stepping down next month. Sederburg came to the Board of Regents from Utah Valley University, where he served as President for five years. His previous positions include nine years as President of Ferris State University in Michigan and 13 years as a Michigan State Senator.

Major accomplishments of Bill Sederburg's tenure as Commissioner include:

- New strategic planning & accountability process for the future of higher ed in Utah;
- Developed & gained support for "Big Goal" that 66% of Utah adults will hold post-secondary degree or certificate;
- Facilitated merger of College of Eastern Utah & Utah State University;
- Forged new alliances between the university & K-12 communities;
- Improved opportunities for student access & completion through "College- & Career-Readiness" statement, Utah Women's College Task Force, College Access Challenge Grant, & Technology-Intensive Concurrent Enrollment (TICE) project;
- Presided over UHEAA's transition to a Federal Student Loan Servicer;
- Increase of UESP's assets from \$2.5 billion to \$4.6 billion;
- Strengthened system-wide academic program quality through the Lumina-funded "Tuning" project;
- Focused on national policy agendas through Complete College America affiliation & National Governor's Association, among others;
- Created new Capital Projects Prioritization Process & conducted space study of all institutions; and
- Established strong economic development role through Cluster Acceleration Partnership (UCAP) initiative.

By unanimous vote, and with the approval of Governor Gary Herbert, the State Board of Regents selected David L. Buhler as Utah's eighth Commissioner of Higher Education, pending confirmation by the State Senate. Mr. Buhler is currently Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs for the Utah System of Higher Education, a position he has held since 2000.

Associate Commissioner Buhler has had a long and distinguished career in higher education and public service. Prior to his appointment as Associate Commissioner, Buhler served in the Utah State Senate (1995-1999). He also served on the Salt Lake City Council (2000-2007) and was a Trustee for the University of Utah (1999-2000). Mr. Buhler was an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at the University of Utah (1990-2006) and Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce (1989-1992). He also worked in business as vice president of a national testing company for eight years.

"Associate Commissioner Buhler's background in higher education, state government, and community service make him uniquely qualified to serve as the next Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Utah," stated Board of Regents Chair, Bonnie Jean Beesley.



Outgoing Commissioner  
Bill Sederburg



Incoming Commissioner  
Dave Buhler

## What is O&M?

This is one of the terms frequently used in higher ed and legislative circles, but it is not always well understood. O&M stands for the Operation and Maintenance of buildings and grounds. The O&M budget is intended to cover expenses for the operation, maintenance, preservation, and protection of the institution's physical plant. This includes janitorial and utility services; repairs and ordinary alterations of buildings and fixtures; major repairs, renovations, and replacements; care of grounds; maintenance and operation of buildings and other plant facilities; security; earthquake and disaster

preparedness; safety; hazardous waste disposal; property, liability and all other insurance relating to property.

Utah's Higher Education institutions, the state Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM) and the Legislature are focused on continuing to strengthen annual operation and maintenance budgets for routine preventative maintenance and repair, as well as capital renewal funding for major repair and maintenance of facilities and infrastructure.



## UESP by the Numbers

**\$4.6 billion**

Assets under management by the Utah Educational Savings Plan

**203,000**

Number of UESP accounts

**55%**

Percentage of account owners who choose to view their quarterly account statements online rather than receive them in the mail

**31%**

Percentage of account owners who heard about UESP through the web in May 2012

**6**

Years out of eight UESP has been rated a "Top" 529 plan by Morningstar, Inc., including in 2011



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