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Enrollment at Utah's Colleges & Universities Stronger than Expected *Impact of Missionary Age Change Less Severe than Projections*

SALT LAKE CITY – Utah's public colleges and universities have been bracing for significant temporary enrollment declines ever since the LDS Church announced last October that it was lowering the age at which a young man or woman could serve a mission. The official fall 2013 enrollment numbers released today show that the impact at most of the state's institutions is less than what had been projected based on the missionary age change and the continuing improvement in the state's economy. Traditionally, when the economy is growing and jobs are more plentiful, some students leave college to return to the workforce.

"Utah's public institutions of higher education have been anticipating a decline in enrollments for the past year. As a result, they have undertaken significant and targeted efforts to recruit new students and encourage others to remain enrolled until they leave for missionary service. It is clear that these efforts have been successful," said David Buhler, Utah's Commissioner of Higher Education. "Utah is one of the few states in the country expecting increased enrollment over the next decade. Our institutions will see a surge of returned missionaries in the next two to four years and our high schools will be seeing 25% growth in the size of their graduating classes. We are working to ensure that most of those graduates continue on to higher education," Buhler added.

In a report to the Board of Regents in January 2013, each of Utah's eight public colleges and universities projected the impact of the missionary age change on their enrollments, ranging from one percent to 20 percent. USHE institutions are pleased to find that this fall's enrollments have come in at the low end or below the anticipated decreases.

Total budget-related FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) approximates the number of students enrolled full-time (15 semester hours for undergraduate students; 10 semester hours for graduate students) each semester. That number totaled 106,680 in the fall of 2013, compared to 110,760 in the fall of 2012. Headcount includes all students enrolled at an institution.

Additionally, particularly at institutions with a community college role, USHE serves several thousand students in non-credit programs, which are not budget-related, do not receive any taxpayer support,

and are not included in the third week totals. USHE institutions also serve over 30,000 high school students in concurrent enrollment. It is also important to note that some students enroll in programs that begin after the third-week enrollment census is taken. To provide a more complete picture of fall enrollments, final numbers will be released when available. Some institutions have a large number of part-time students, which accounts for the difference between their FTE and headcount. The following tables show budget-related FTE and total headcount. (Budget-related are enrollments that receive state funding.)

UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION FALL 2013 3RD WEEK ENROLLMENT NUMBERS				
Budget-Related FTE	2012	2013	% Change	% Change since 2008
University of Utah	26,966	26,758	-0.77%	15.42%
Utah State University	19,296	18,904	-2.04%	10.82%
Weber State University	14,233	13,245	-6.94%	12.72%
Southern Utah University	6,193	5,835	-5.78%	1.51%
Snow College	3,306	3,331	0.74%	40.6%
Dixie State University	6,287	5,940	-5.51%	37.14%
Utah Valley University	19,117	17,952	-6.10%	14.97%
Salt Lake Community College	15,361	14,715	-4.21%	4.41%
USHE Total	110,760	106,680	-3.68%	13.31%

Total Headcount	2012	2013	% Change	% Change since 2008
University of Utah	32,398	32,080	-0.98%	6.13%
Utah State University	28,786	27,812	-3.38%	6.94%
Weber State University	26,681	25,301	-5.17%	16.73%
Southern Utah University	8,297	7,745	-6.65%	3.05%
Snow College	4,599	4,605	0.13%	21.25%
Dixie State University	8,863	8,350	-5.79%	29.6%
Utah Valley University	31,556	30,564	-3.14%	14.49%
Salt Lake Community College	30,112	31,137	3.40%	4.26%
USHE Total	171,291	167,594	-2.16%	10.09%

Notes:

1) FTEs are calculated then rounded to the nearest one

2) Source for prior year information from 2013 USHE Data Book Tab C

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 University, Utah Valley University and Salt Lake Community College. For more information on the Utah System of Higher Education, visit our website at www.higheredutah.org

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