

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Elizabeth J. Hitch, Ph.D., has served in the Office of the Commissioner since July 2010 and announced on August 27, 2019, that she will conclude her service at the close of the Board of Regents meeting on September 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hitch has spent her entire career in higher education, including three years at Utah Valley University and nearly 10 at the Utah System of Higher Education in the Commissioner's Office as Associate Commissioner for Academic & Student Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hitch has had an impactful career in education, both in the State of Utah and out. Hitch served as Interim President from 2008-09 at Utah Valley University, after coming to Utah in 2007 to serve as Vice President for Academic Affairs at what was then Utah Valley State College. Before coming to Utah, she served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and was Interim Chancellor for one year. Before joining UW-La Crosse, she served as Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies at Eastern Illinois University; was a tenured faculty member and administrator at Central Michigan University; and an instructional designer at the University of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hitch's service as Associate Commissioner included a focus on effectively responding to legislation, such as with SB 196, Math Competency Initiative (2015), sponsored by Sen. Ann Millner, which focused on increasing the number of students meeting the post-secondary math/quantitative literacy requirement before leaving high school, by taking the correct college-level math classes through Concurrent Enrollment; and

WHEREAS, she also worked with USHE and institutional staff to redesign the program review and approval process in response to SB 238, Higher Education Governance Revisions (2017), sponsored by Sen. Ann Millner, which required a strong institutional peer-review process and institutional Board of Trustee approval for most programs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hitch also guided focused work to improve transfer and articulation with Major Committees, which engage faculty and representatives from USHE institutions in more than 30 disciplines in aligning courses and programs for a smoother transfer; and

WHEREAS, she has worked and collaborated with many constituent groups to address key initiatives to improve higher education in Utah including with institutional Chief Academic Officers, Chief Student Affairs Officers, the Council of Education Deans, and others; and

WHEREAS, she holds a doctoral degree in educational psychology from the University of Michigan and a baccalaureate and two master's degrees in family ecology from Michigan State University.

WHEREAS, she has prioritized top initiatives for the system and worked tirelessly to impact higher education for the better;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah State Board of Regents, joined by the Commissioner of Higher Education and his staff, and institution presidents, faculty, staff, and students who have worked with Elizabeth Hitch, hereby extend sincere expressions of appreciation and respect for the many years of service and advocacy of higher education in Utah, and wish her and her family the very best in their future endeavors.

Dated this 13th day of September, 2019.



Harris H. Simmons, Chair
State Board of Regents



Dave R. Woolstenhulme
Commissioner of Higher Education