

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, the University of Utah was inducted into the prestigious Association of American Universities on November 6, 2019; and

WHEREAS, this is a significant milestone, both for the University of Utah and for the State of Utah; and

WHEREAS, the Association of American Universities has recognized the most outstanding academic institutions in the nation for more than 100 years in order to promote and raise standards for university research and education; and

WHEREAS, the membership criteria are based on a university's research funding; the proportion of faculty elected to the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine; the impact of research and scholarship; and student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the U celebrated a historic high of \$547 million in sponsored project funding, covering a wide range of research activities. These prestigious awards from organizations such as the U.S. Department of Energy, National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation are supporting: work in geothermal energy; cross-cutting, interdisciplinary approaches to research that challenge existing paradigms; and effects of cannabinoids on pain management. They also are funding educational research programs with significant community engagement, such as the U's STEM Ambassador Program and the Genetic Science Learning Center's participation in the All of Us Research Program; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2019, the U announced a \$150 million gift, the largest single-project donation in its history, to establish the Huntsman Mental Health Institute. These gifts and awards are in addition to the ongoing support of the U from the Utah State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the U's focus on student success has led to an increased six-year graduation rate, which now sits at 70%—well above the national average for four-year schools. The rate has jumped 19 percentage points over the past decade, making it one of only two public higher education research institutions to achieve this success; and

WHEREAS, this year's invitations into the AAU are the first since 2012; and

WHEREAS, President Ruth V. Watkins has accepted an invitation to join the association, along with the University of California, Santa Cruz and Dartmouth College. The three new members bring the number of AAU institutions to 65; and

WHEREAS, Utah's students and community members will benefit from the research and education efforts of the University of Utah in its role as the state's flagship research institution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the USHE Board of Regents, joined by the Commissioner of Higher Education and his staff, and institution presidents, faculty, staff, and students, hereby extend sincere expressions of recognition and esteem for the University of Utah's achievement and excellence in the areas of research, scholarship and education to further higher education in Utah, and for President Ruth V. Watkins' leadership, guiding our flagship research institution to national prominence.

Dated this 15th day of November, 2019.



Harris H. Simmons, Chair
State Board of Regents



Dave R. Woolstenhulme
Commissioner of Higher Education