

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, the Utah System of Higher Education was formed by the state legislature with a single board—the Utah State Board of Regents—to govern the new system; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the Utah System of Higher Education and its Board of Regents was the culmination of more than 70 years of study and work; and

WHEREAS, since its formation, dozens of influential and accomplished community members and students have served on the Board and its committees to identify and implement key policies and initiatives, continually improving higher education for all of Utah's students; and

WHEREAS, when the USHE Board of Regents was first formed, the total fall enrollment was just over 40,000 students, and Utah's nine institutions consisted of two universities, two newly expanded four-year colleges, three junior colleges, and two technical colleges; and

WHEREAS, since 1969, the Utah System of Higher Education has grown tremendously and achieved many great milestones; and

WHEREAS, during its 50-year legacy, the USHE Board of Regents created common-course numbering and launched the Utah Transfer Guide, both making transfer easier than ever before in the state; expanded Concurrent Enrollment systemwide; launched Expect the Great in Utah, a program designed to increase college participation and graduation rates for African, African-American, and black students and communities; offered statewide scholarships including the Regents' Scholarship, New Century Scholarship; T.H. Bell Education Scholarship; and many more key initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Board also prioritized college access for students and has done so through the expansion of the Utah College Advising Corps program, which is a proven model to increase college enrollment and college graduation rates; and through the Utah Promise Scholarship, the state's first-ever, needs-based scholarship program, which was adopted in 2019; and

WHEREAS, as regional and state needs for education changed, the System has seen the College of Eastern Utah merge into Utah State University Eastern; the Utah Technical College at Salt Lake became Salt Lake Community College; Utah Technical College at Provo went through several transitions and eventually became Utah Valley University; and Southern Utah University, Weber State University, and Dixie State University also gained their university status; and

WHEREAS, today, USHE's eight institutions consist of six universities and two community colleges, and enrollment has grown to more than 190,000 students during the 2019-20 academic year; and

WHEREAS, the USHE Board of Regents has made a great impact on Utah communities and students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the USHE Board of Regents, joined by the USHE Commissioner of Higher Education and his entire staff, and institution presidents, faculty, and staff, look forward to the Board's upcoming work and initiatives as it merges with the Utah System of Technical Colleges, creating the new Utah Board of Higher Education.

Dated this 15th day of May, 2020.



Harris H. Simmons, Chair
State Board of Regents



Dave R. Woolstenhulme
Commissioner of Higher Education