



## **REPORT ON THE 2013 UTAH STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The Governor and the Utah State Legislature demonstrated unprecedented support for The University of Utah during the 2013 legislative session. Thanks to the efforts of President Dave Pershing and Senior Vice President Vivian Lee, The University received funding increases that will allow us to restore and increase our medical school class as well as expand our focus on key University initiatives.

### **SUCCESSSES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH**

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The Governor and the Utah Legislature addressed all of the top priorities of The University of Utah.

- The Legislature approved partial funding for a 1% compensation increase for higher education employees.
- The Legislature passed SB 42 which appropriates \$10 million in ongoing funding (\$6.5 million in year one) to expand the medical school class from 82 students to 102 starting this fall. The class size will then increase an additional 20 slots in 2014, bringing the total annually admitted student class size to 122.
- In a clear sign of support for the USTAR initiative which continues to bring world class researchers to the state, the Legislature appropriated \$5 million in ongoing funding which will help restore some prior budget cuts and allow us to fund new research teams.
- As was requested by the Utah State Board of Regents, \$18 million was appropriated to help fund distinctive mission initiatives as well as growth at each institution of higher education.
- \$2.5 million in one-time funding was appropriated to the Huntsman Cancer Institute.
- \$300,000 in one-time funding was appropriated to the Utah Museum of Natural History.
- \$125,000 in ongoing funding was appropriated for the University of Utah Reading Clinic to provide expanded reading assessment and interventions for public school students with low reading proficiency.

### **SEVERAL BUILDINGS WERE AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH INCLUDING**

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- Bonding authorization to expand and renovate the Basketball Training Center.
- Bonding authorization plus operation and maintenance approval for the Kennecott Building renovation and addition.

## **LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY WITH OUTCOMES**

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### **HB 28 (Ipson): Campus Safety Amendments**

Would allow administrative officers at USHE institutions to dismiss individuals that trespass on the property of higher education institutions who disturb the peace. *Passed*

### **HB 76 (Mathis): Concealed Weapon Carry Amendments**

Provides an exemption for a person who is 21 years of age or older and who may lawfully possess a firearm from certain criminal provisions related to the carrying of an unloaded concealed firearm. *Passed*

### **HB 139 (Peterson): Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Action Center**

Creates educational programs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in public education. *Passed*

### **HB 254 (Ray): College Credit for Veterans**

Requires USHE colleges and universities to award credit for certain military service training and experience after meeting with a higher education student advisor. *Passed*

### **HB 286 (Froerer): Disposition of Personal Property on Vacated Property**

Requires a property owner to give notice to a former tenant of abandoned personal property before it is sold or donated. This allows a tenant to recover abandoned personal property under certain conditions and provides that a property owner is not required to store certain hazardous or dangerous abandoned personal property. *Passed*

### **HB 376 (Hutchings): Public Funds and Accounts Amendments**

This bill was drafted at the request of the University of Utah to modify the State Money Management Act to allow certain institutions of higher education to deposit public funds in a foreign bank for educational purposes. *Passed*

### **HB 391 (Anderegg): Prohibition of Medicaid Expansion**

Prohibits the Department of Health or the governor from expanding the state Medicaid program to optional expansion populations unless: the Health System Reform Task Force completes a review of a statewide charity care system; the department completes a thorough analysis of the impact of Medicaid expansion in the state and makes the analysis available to the public; and the department reports to the Legislature in accordance with statutory reporting requirements. *Passed*

### **SB 42 (Valentine): Medical School Admissions Funding**

This bill authorizes the University Of Utah School of Medicine to increase the number of students it admits annually. The class size will increase by 20 students in the fall of 2013 and then by an additional 20 in 2014, bringing the annually admitted class size to 122 students. Of those admitted students, 82% must be Utah residents or have graduated from a high school, college, or university located in Utah. *Passed*

### **SB 51 (Urquhart): Higher Education Tuition Waivers**

Removes the cap on the number of waivers allotted to institutions of higher education for nonresident students who meet certain academic and admission requirements; and extends alumni legacy nonresident scholarships at institutions of higher education to grandchildren of alumni. *Passed*

**SB 100 (Stevenson): Higher Education Scholarship Amendments**

Makes modifications to the Regents' and New Century scholarship programs to streamline the application process, raise standards to improve completion, and addresses concerns raised by constituents. *Passed*

**SB 107 (Christensen): Public Shooting Ranges**

Grants the public access to use certain public shooting ranges; permits a fee to be charged for the public to use a public shooting range; and describes when a public shooting range can be restricted from public use. *Passed*

**SB 132 (Harper): Utah Medical Education Council Amendments**

This bill moves the functions of the Utah Medical Education Council into the Board of Regents as well as expands its scope to nursing professionals. The Council will still maintain its authority through its current board appointed by the Governor to bridge the gap between public/private health care workforce and education interests. *Passed*

**SB 162 (Urquhart): Concurrent Enrollment Amendments**

Clarifies and modifies several elements of legislation he sponsored, and enacted, last year that were administratively burdensome, based on feedback from USHE. *Passed*

**SB 169 (Reid): Education Task Force**

Creates a task force of 14 legislators to review and make recommendations on long-term policies regarding public and higher education. The focus of the task force includes: workforce alignment, integration between education entities, improvement of the state's economic prosperity, and standards to be competitive in the United States and the world. A final report of the committee would be required in December 2013. *Passed*

**SB 175 (Stephenson): Assessment of College Readiness**

Requires K-12 schools to administer college readiness assessments which include a college admissions test that is most commonly submitted to local universities (e.g. ACT or SAT). USHE supported this bill as it streamlines the assessment of college readiness of high school students. *Passed*

**SB 190 (Jenkins): Procurement Revisions**

Makes significant modifications to the state procurement code. The University of Utah Hospital is exempted from many of the provisions and most of the higher education concerns were accommodated. *Passed*

**SCR 5 (Stevenson): Concurrent Resolution Endorsing the Utah Education Excellence Commission**

Expresses strong support for achieving the goal that 66% of Utah's adults will hold a postsecondary degree or certificate by the year 2020; expresses the Legislature's determination to work with the Governor and Utah's education stakeholders to achieve the 66% goal through increased innovation and investment. *Passed*