



UTAH HIGHER EDUCATION STAFF ASSOCIATION

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*Deadline
press release
web site
8/15/03*

Staff

*a paragraph that
reflects non research
institutions.*

TO: Utah State Legislators
FROM: Utah Higher Education Staff Association (UHESA)
DATE: August , 2003
RE: Legislative Decisions Affecting Higher Education

The Utah Higher Education Staff Association (UHESA) represents over _____ staff from nine Higher Education Institutions across the state of Utah. May we take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication to the citizens of the state of Utah.

As Legislators, you have tough decisions to make in a year with scarce funding, knowing that every state agency, Higher Education Institution, and private citizen is monitoring your decisions with vested interests. We are confident you will do everything you can to represent the large number of families across the state who are Classified and Professional staff within Higher Education.

Recent budget cuts have eroded the operating funds of Higher Education across the state, and additional cuts to institution budgets for the coming years will only add to the existing depleted funds. As citizens of the state of Utah, and Classified and Professional staff within Higher Education, we hope you recognize the importance Higher Education plays in the economic well being of the state of Utah. If students are turned away and if jobs within Higher Education are eliminated due to continued budget cuts, the economic stability of the state will be greatly affected for years to come. The state of Utah will lose substantial tax revenue through the loss of state and local payroll taxes. Unemployment and the need for state assistance programs will rise due to the loss in jobs of employees within Higher Education institutions across the state, and surrounding communities will loose revenue in sales of goods and services due to loss of income.

Other affecting factors will be loss in funds from outside agencies in the form of research grants and contracts due to prestigious Higher Education employees who relocate their research efforts out of the state of Utah because of rising benefit costs, deteriorating salaries, and lack of opportunities due to state cut backs.

The state will also lose the opportunity of new spin-off and start-up companies from research within Higher Education. Research stimulates the economy. It provides new jobs and promotes the state's well-being. Research also provides entrepreneurial opportunities for Higher Education students, bright young minds that graduate and take their ideas out of the state of Utah and stimulate economic development and growth in communities outside Utah. We cannot overemphasize the importance of the high return on the state's dollars when money is invested in Higher Education.

The Utah Higher Education Staff Association, representing a large body of Higher Education Classified and Professional Staff, is confident that as Legislators you will unite and fight for the future of Higher Education. Classified and Professional Staff cannot continue to receive zero pay increases for the third year in a row, while also losing pay because of depleting benefits and rising living costs.

We are pleading, as our elected officials and Legislators, please help us fight for the Classified and Professional staff within Higher Education, recognizing the true economic impact Higher Education gives back to the state of Utah.

Thank you for your time.

Teresa W. McKnight
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UHESA President Elect
Utah Valley State College

Wes Brinkerhoff
UHESA Past President
Southern Utah University

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cc: Chairman, Board of Regents
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