



October 5, 2009

2009-10 UHESA Officers

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Dear Legislator:

The Utah Higher Education Staff Association (UHESA) membership looks forward to working with you during the coming 2010 legislative session.

UHESA thanks you for undertaking the difficult task of balancing the State of Utah's budget for 2010. Staff employees of Higher Education did their part to assist in helping the legislature deal with the fiscal shortfall. According to a Deseret News article, 900 + Higher Education employees took early retirement, were laid off, or were furloughed without pay during the past 6 months. Six hundred and fifty of the 900 were staff members and are no longer with Higher Education.

UHESA is aware of the economic downturn the Utah economy is experiencing and realizes that the State of Utah's budget will be difficult to balance in the coming 2010 legislative session. With that said UHESA proposes the following as our funding priorities for the 2010 legislative session, and hope the legislature will take into consideration the ramifications of further cuts in our ability to serve students and the State of Utah.

Please review and consider the following:

- **UHESA is in favor of using a portion of the "rainy day" funds to help compensate for the economic downturn and lack of revenues to help legislators deal with the challenge of appropriating monies in "lean times".**
- **UHESA would like legislators to assist Higher Education, by providing Mission-Based Funding as identified by the Board of Regents as each institution is striving to fill their mission and doing so with fewer employees than before.**
- **UHESA knows that all state entities must share in future budget cuts, but feels higher education has taken more than a fair share in recent budget cuts. We encourage the legislature to preserve as much funding for higher education as possible to ensure that education remains a possibility to all of our citizens who desire to attend.**

UHESA feels that monies appropriated for Higher Education would be an investment in the future economic growth for the State of Utah. We will continue to be at the forefront in advancing the mission of Higher Education to help create a viable work force that can only enhance the economic outlook for the State of Utah in a positive manner.

UHESA sincerely thanks legislators for the support shown in the past, and again, we look forward to working with you now and during the 2010 legislative session. We look forward to meeting with you during our UHESA Day at the State Capitol on February 4, 2010.

Sincerely,

Geniva Brooks
2009-2010 UHESA President

2009-2010 Staff Association Presidents

Jeremiah Moore, Justin Orth – College of Eastern Utah
Carlene Holm, Dennis Cox – Dixie State College
Doug Thom – Salt Lake Community College

Lisa Allen-Martinez, Lisa Pedersen – Weber State University
Travis Rosenberg – Southern Utah University
Doug Garrett, Craig Miller – Utah State University

Jeff Serrine – Snow College
Tanisha Peck – University of Utah
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