



Creating a Powerful Voice in the State
of Utah for Higher Education Staff

January 30, 2013

Dear Legislator:

The Utah Higher Education Staff Association (UHESA) would like to thank you in advance for your continued support of higher education as we work together to make Utah the greatest state in the Union. I am sure you realize staff members provide the necessary support services at institutions of public learning, even if that contribution is often hidden behind the scenes. Janitors, mechanics, IT support personnel and many other staff work tirelessly every day to keep the colleges and universities in this state running. The staff are committed to their institutions and their jobs, but have gone a long time without a substantial increase in pay, while at the same time the cost of benefits continues to rise. To support the missions of Utah's institutions of higher education, and to support your mission to keep Utah's economy strong, **we ask you to support a Cost-of-Living Adjustment for compensation and benefits for Higher Education Staff in the State of Utah this year.**

Each year the State Legislature makes difficult decisions as it allocates limited resources between many worthy causes. The 2013 Legislative Session will prove to be a particularly challenging session for the Legislature. Higher Education is crucial to the health and stability of Utah's short and long term economy.

Although recessions are very challenging to a society, if managed properly they can be very healthy for the long term economy. As we look at the long term health of our society; locally, nationally and globally, it is important to remember the vital role of higher education. When governments spend money on educating citizens they are investing in the future. Our local institutions help provide training through certificate programs, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, and advanced degrees to further the investment entrusted to them from the state. During a recession it actually makes sense to expand education spending. If we continue to invest now, when the economy recovers we will have more a skilled, more productive workforce.

UHESA continues 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 thanks you for your support!**

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kim Rasbold'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Rasbold
President, Utah Higher Education Staff Association

"Annual UHESA Day at the Capitol"
Tuesday, February 12, 2013
Spruce Room from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

We invite you to spend a brief moment of your time with us on that day to discuss how we can help prepare Utah for the future.