



September 5, 2007

Dear Legislator:

The Utah Higher Education Staff Association (UHESA), and its members, would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the support we received during the 2007 legislative session.

More specifically UHESA thanks the legislators for appropriating the 3.5 % salary increase and 1.5% in retention monies, plus the 9.8% funding of continued health insurance costs. Although we had hoped Higher Education would be exempted from the spending cap UHESA appreciates any funds invested in Higher Education.

According to Mark Knold, Chief Economist for the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), since June/2006 Utah has created over 55,000 new jobs, which is the highest increase in the nation. The economy for the state of Utah continues to be robust, and the outlook is favorable for continued growth.

We as staff remain committed to advancing the workforce preparation and economic development that occurs on college and university campuses. However, continued economic expansion across Utah provides many opportunities that entice our colleagues to seek employment in other sectors. Continued legislative support of salary and compensation increases for Higher Education employees is vital in maintaining an effective and skilled Higher Education workforce. This workforce, in turn, supports the students and economic development activities that make our economy grow.

After reviewing Utah's "Annual Average Pay Growth Rates" as issued by the Governor's Office of Planning & Budget, UHESA would like to share our 2008 funding priorities for your review and consideration:

1. UHESA requests a 4.5% salary increase with continued coverage of health insurance costs.
2. UHESA requests an additional 1.5% funding for staff retention.
3. UHESA requests continued support appropriating funds for recruitment of students into the Higher Education system, to help increase enrollments.

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.

Again, UHESA thanks you and all our legislators for the support you have shown in the past and we look forward to working with you now and during the 2008 legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Evans".

Jennifer B. Evans, MBA
2007-2008 UHESA President
Weber State University

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