

Dear Fellow T-Birds:

What a pleasure it is to be addressing you from the Interim Presidency position here at Southern Utah University. Like you, I care deeply about SUU; both acknowledging the value it has added to so many people's lives in the past and looking forward to an even brighter tomorrow as the campus constantly builds on its traditions and expands its horizons.

Along with the fresh mountain air that earmarks a summer in Cedar City, comes fresh excitement for new initiatives taking place on the SUU campus. Final touches are being put on a long-awaited niche degree program in Outdoor Recreation. This baccalaureate program, combined with a rapidly expanding venue of activities sponsored by the Student Services' Outdoor Recreation Center, and with a growing list of agreements between SUU and the various public lands agencies, will truly serve to make SUU a leader in this market.

We are also expanding the Regional Services role for our institution, in order to better serve the State's citizens. Long a cultural center for the region, with performances sponsored by the College of Performing Arts and the Utah Shakespearean Festival, SUU's regional involvement extends from such established programs as Head Start, the Small Business Development Center, and Utah Summer Games, to the many lead roles we serve in programs for rural communities. Organizational changes have recently taken place to renew and expand our role, with additional regional services programs in our sights.

Following closely on the heels of the Master in Professional Communication degree begun last year, this Fall will see the initial classes being taught in the Master in Forensic Science degree program. Additional graduate and niche undergraduate degrees are in various stages of preparation as well. These expanded offerings will occur with a vigilant eye on maintaining our current student faculty ratio, and quality faculty.

While numerous facilities projects are underway over the summer, work on a particular academic building project is likely causing the most interest. With the groundbreaking for a new, state-of-the-art Teacher Education building having taken place on Commencement weekend, early construction of that building—along with a significant renovation of Old Main—are garnering much campus interest.

Even as the search for the institution's next permanent leader moves forward, the campus continues to forge ahead with its own initiatives. When asked by the Regents to serve in this Interim capacity, my statement to them was that we would not stand still, but would continue to build on the positive momentum

in place, making our institution ever more attractive both for leadership candidates and for potential and current students. Let me say how confident I am that our goal will be fulfilled, due to the talents and passions of the many people of SUU who dedicate their time and their hearts to this educational enterprise.

Recently, a well-known consultant in the field of higher education was on our campus. He commented that SUU is favorably regarded throughout the region as a great "public ivy" institution. This is an accurate description of SUU that emphasizes one of our strengths and differentiations; our position as a "public private" (public college governance and pricing combined with private college intimacy) experience. All of us at SUU are committed daily to maintaining and enhancing the "personalized learning climate" that makes our institution unique.

For these reasons and more, SUU continues to be an outstanding value; the degrees it grants continue to be sought after. Our alumni enjoy a 94% job placement rate, with 87% of you working in the field of your choice. I am honored to serve in my present role at SUU as we "promote personalized learning and academic integrity (to) enable students and graduates to honor thought in all its finest forms and to excel in life."

Sincerely,



Dr. Gregory L. Stauffer

