

VOLUNTEERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION RESOLUTION

1998 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: David H. Steele

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR RECOGNIZING THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM AND HELP FOR OTHERS BY ITS STUDENTS AND ENCOURAGING FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXPANSION OF SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS the Presidents of the universities and colleges within the state system of higher education have joined with the Presidents of Brigham Young University and Westminster College to create the Utah Campus Compact;

WHEREAS the Compact was established to advocate and lead the effort to strengthen the institutions' commitments to the communities in which they are located and to prepare their graduates to meet the needs of the various communities across the state;

WHEREAS the Compact's goal is to have service learning within the curriculum at every Utah institution of higher education so that students will be exposed to the concept of service within and outside the classroom;

WHEREAS the Compact's mission statement embodies a commitment to foster in students the values and skills of citizenship through active involvement in academically based and cocurricular civic and community service;

WHEREAS during the 1996-97 school year, 27,559 college and university students gave 409,469 hours of service to communities throughout the state, and from efforts such as Dixie College's East Elementary School Literacy Project to Utah State University's "Adopt a Grandparent Program" these students have increasingly contributed their time and talents to making the state a better place in which to live;

WHEREAS many of the state's colleges and universities have adopted elementary and

secondary schools in order to provide assistance to students in those schools who are experiencing various academic and social challenges, with such examples as Utah Valley State College's Lakeridge Elementary School tutoring project that has enabled students at Lakeridge to increase their grades from F's to A's and B's, Salt Lake Community College's adoption of two elementary schools as part of its tutoring program, and the University of Utah's Guadalupe School Partnership Program that has enabled young students to improve their educational and linguistic development through tutoring; and

WHEREAS the most important educational accomplishment of the Compact has been to increase interest and encourage the expansion of service learning into the classroom, thereby allowing students to put their academic knowledge and skills into community service projects, such as chemistry classes conducting pollution tests in Utah's lakes and streams and reporting the results to various health agencies in an effort to maintain a safe environment for its citizens:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, recognize and congratulate the Utah System of Higher Education for its accomplishments in the development of the spirit of volunteerism and help for others by its students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage further development of the expansion of service learning opportunities for students in Utah's colleges and universities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to members of the Utah Campus Compact, the State Board of Regents, Utah's college publications organizations, representatives of the news media, and the State Board of Education.