Monday, November 12, 2012

4:00 pm
Transportation to the Natural History Museum of Utah

4:15 - 5:00 pm
Tour of the Natural History Museum of Utah

5:00 - 7:00 pm
Reception, Dinner, and Presentation: “Utah on Student Learning: Tuning, Passporting, and Profiling – You Name It, Utah’s Got It”
Swaner Forum

7:00 pm
Transportation to the University Guest House Hotel

David Buhler, Utah’s commissioner of higher education, and Teddi Safman, assistant commissioner for academic affairs, will discuss the work in which the Utah System of Higher Education is engaged as part of the WICHE Interstate Passport Initiative. In Utah the Interstate Passport Initiative is built upon the system’s Faculty Discipline Major’s Meetings, now in their 15th year. During these meetings faculty discuss the learning outcomes and competencies students need for successful transfer, the core of the Interstate Passport Initiative. In addition, the initiative converges with two other projects in which the system is engaged: Tuning and the Quality Collaboratives. Commissioner Buhler will discuss his new role as regards to academic quality and enhancement, and Assistant Commissioner Safman will elaborate on converging projects.

Speakers: David Buhler, commissioner of higher education, Utah System of Higher Education, and Phyllis “Teddi” Safman, assistant commissioner of academic affairs, Utah System of Higher Education

Biographical Information on the Speakers

David L. Buhler is Utah’s eighth commissioner of higher education. For nearly 12 years, prior to his appointment earlier this year, Commissioner Buhler served as association commissioner for public affairs with responsibility for government and media relations and overseeing the system’s strategic priority of participation and outreach. He also served as interim commissioner for eight months in 2008. Commissioner Buhler taught as an adjunct professor of political science at the University of Utah from 1990 to 2006 and was a member of the University of Utah Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2000. A native of Salt Lake City, he received bachelor of science degrees in history and political science from the University of Utah and a master of public administration degree from Brigham Young University. He is currently completing a Ph.D. in political science at the University of Utah.

Phyllis “Teddi” Safman is the assistant commissioner for academic affairs with the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) State Board of Regents. Her responsibilities include: transfer, articulation, and
assessment of general education; No Child Left Behind; teacher education; the Lumina Foundation–funded Tuning Project, an outgrowth of the Bologna Process; the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) initiative; the Quality Collaboratives, also Lumina-funded; and the Interstate Passport Initiative, funded by the Carnegie Corporation. She works with faculty from 38 academic disciplines in the Faculty Discipline Majors’ Meetings on issues ranging from student persistence and completion to competencies, Essential Learning Outcomes, teaching practices, and the Degree Qualification Profile. She also works with faculty-led state efforts to create transfer and articulation policy that assures students in the USHE of seamless transfer from two- to four-year studies. Although a musician by training, Safman received a Ph.D. in continuing and adult education from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Formerly an associate dean of continuing education at the University of Utah, she has held leadership positions in adult and continuing education nationally, regionally, and statewide. She joined the commissioner’s staff in 1993, with a short break to work in accreditation and strategic planning in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. Safman currently serves on the Western Academic Leadership Forum Executive Committee. She teaches two graduate courses on organization and governance in higher education and dissertation proposal writing at the University of Utah.