



# Mike Leavitt

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF UTAH



Governor's  
Action on Bills



Utah Remembers  
September 11, 2001

- ★ HOT NEWS
- ★ GREETING
- ★ NEWS RELEASES
- ★ UPDATES
- ★ BIOGRAPHY
- ★ E-MAIL
- ★ POLICIES
- ★ SPEECHES
- ★ BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
- ★ LINKS

- ★ Home Page
- ★ Reporter's Page
- ★ Families
- ★ Education
- ★ Crime
- ★ Transportation
- ★ Technology
- ★ Workforce Services
- ★ Healthcare Reform
- ★ Land Issues
- ★ Utah & the Nation
- ★ Secondary

## GOVERNOR LEAVITT'S Year 2001 NEWS RELEASES

### Governor Leavitt and Deputy Secretary of Education Address Teacher Shortages

Governor Mike Leavitt and U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education William Hansen today, September 10, 2001, announced national and local initiatives to address a growing educational problem: the need for an adequate supply of appropriately trained teachers. Both announcements coincide with back to school season and President Bush and Governor Leavitt's interest in promoting educational excellence.

To address the growing teacher shortage nationally, Deputy Secretary Hansen, who is visiting Salt Lake to represent President Bush' education agenda, announced funding for the creation of a national Teachers College. The national Teachers College, which is sponsored by the Western Governor's University, will receive \$10 million over five years to use computers and the Internet to provide accredited, online, competency-based degrees for teachers and prospective teachers. The source of the funding is the Department of Education's Star Schools program, a program designed to improve teaching via the use of technology. Money from the program is awarded on a competitive basis and more than \$125 million has been awarded since the program was first authorized in 1988.

"During the next ten years our nation will need an additional two million teachers," says Deputy Secretary Bill Hansen, the nation's second highest-ranking education official. "We must create new processes and institutional relationships to meet this need."

Experts from Utah's system of higher education will assist with the development of competencies for the national Teachers College. Existing Utah teachers, paraprofessionals and second-career professionals will also benefit from the national program.

To address the teacher shortage locally, Governor Leavitt, Deputy Secretary Hansen, and local education officials endorsed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop competency-based, online training programs in Utah for teachers who need to update their training and secure certification and endorsements in areas of critical need. The primary areas of focus in the memorandum are math, science, reading and instructional technology in rural school districts.

"Today we – federal, state, and local government – join together to launch a common education agenda to promote competency-based certification," said Governor Mike Leavitt. "This Memorandum of Understanding will provide teachers and paraprofessionals in Utah the opportunity to fine tune their skills to the needs of today's students."

The details of the Memorandum of Understanding are as follows:



[Real Media Streaming](#) [Mpg 26 MB](#) [Quicktime 91 MB](#)

View webcast  
of Governor  
Mike Leavitt's  
State of the State  
Address  
January 16, 2001  
at 6:30 p.m.



View webcast  
of Governor  
Mike Leavitt's  
historic third term  
inauguration on  
January 4, 2001  
at 5 p.m.



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- **Utah Rural Schools Association** agrees to identify and support existing teachers and potential teacher candidates to receive education (and the necessary endorsements) in math, science, reading, and instructional technology, and to provide one-half the tuition costs for teachers enrolled in the project
- **Western Governors University** agrees to develop the competencies necessary for the endorsements, develop on-line training programs, and provide 25 scholarships to teachers who seek advanced training in instructional technology
- **U.S. Department of Education** agrees to help fund the development of the competency-based program via a Star School's grant
- **Utah State Office of Education** agrees to collaborate in the development of the teacher competencies and approve, as appropriate, the licensing of qualified teachers
- **Utah System of Higher Education** agrees to provide information, research and support to develop the competency-based endorsements



[Return to Home Page](#)

[Return to News](#)

210 STATE CAPITOL ★ SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114 ★ (801)538-1000 ★ FAX (801)538-1528

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Jacalyn S. Leavitt 

Lieutenant Governor  
Olene S. Walker 

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Award

State  
Olympic Officer



Utah Commission on  
Criminal and Juvenile Justice 

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