This report provides a summary of important events and accomplishments in the Division of Academic Affairs during the 2006–07 year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2006-07 YEAR

- The past academic year saw the creation of new degree programs. On June 9, 2006 the Board of Regents approved the WSU Master of Health Administration degree. The following month, the Regents approved the Master of Arts in English degree. The Master of Athletic Training degree was approved in July 2007. This brings the number of graduate degrees at WSU to seven. Approval for a Master of Science in Nursing is anticipated by the end of 2007. During the 2006-07 year there were 429 FTE graduate students enrolled at WSU and more than 2,800 duplicated student registrations in graduate courses. For comparison purposes, Boise State University enrolled 434 FTE graduate students in 2005.

- For the past two years, WSU has worked diligently to address recommendations regarding general education assessment and adjunct faculty development which were made by the Northwest Commission in 2005. On April 30, 2007 Dr. Harold A. Dengerink, Chancellor of Washington State University Vancouver, visited WSU to review the progress which WSU had made toward addressing the Northwest recommendations. A report prepared by Dr. Dengerink concluded that Weber State University has made substantial progress in addressing the previous concerns of the Commission.

- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named Psychology Professor Eric Amsel as the 2006 Utah Professor of the Year. This was the third time in four years a WSU faculty was selected as Utah's professor of the year. Given the long-standing commitment of WSU to quality teaching, this recognition is an important confirmation of the quality of WSU faculty.

- In November 2006, WSU was selected as the site for a Technology Innovation Center that will support the Utah Science, Technology and Research (USTAR) initiative. Curt Roberts, previously a vice president for Nike and an alumnus of Weber State University, was selected to direct the Innovation Center. The new center will bring together local businesses and industry, government agencies and area educational institutions with the goal of sparking new business development, enhancing the climate for innovation, and stimulating the creation of more jobs.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2006-07 YEAR

- For the third year in a row, a WSU undergraduate student represented the state of Utah on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., as part of the prestigious Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill event. Senior Kristena Kons, a psychology major, presented her research on light therapy and its effectiveness in helping military shift workers reduce fatigue, which can help decrease errors made on the job.

- In June 2007, WSU learned that it had been selected to host the 2010 National Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) conference. This is a symbolic milestone for WSU’s undergraduate research efforts. Hosting the CUR will bring important national attention to WSU’s undergraduate research efforts.

- In June 2007, the Board of Regents approved WSU’s request to establish a Community Involvement Center dedicated to engaging students in service experiences in the community. The Community Involvement Center represents a partnership between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to facilitate a civically engaged learning experience for Weber State University students. The mission of the center is to engage students and faculty members in a process which combines community service and academic learning in order to promote civic participation, build community capacity, and enhance the educational process.

- WSU's Department of English recently became a local site for the National Writing Project, an organization dedicated to improving the nation's writing skills. This is important for two reasons. First, by participating in the National Writing Project WSU will work with public school teachers to improve writing skills. Second, the English Department’s interest in the program reflects a renewed interest in writing that may lead to the revitalization of WSU’s Writing Across the Curriculum program which has been dormant for several years.

- In March 2006, WSU’s Department of Performing Arts staged its production of “Macbeth” at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. WSU was one of only three schools invited to present a play by William Shakespeare at the Kennedy Center.

CURRENT WSU GOALS AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The remainder of this report will detail important activities which occurred during the 2006-07 year within the framework of the over-arching goals for Weber State University.
OFFER AN OUTSTANDING, LEARNER-CENTERED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN A MULTI-CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

NORTHWEST ACCREDITATION

WSU received two recommendations from the Northwest Commission in February 2005. The first recommendation concerned the regular assessment of WSU’s general education program. The Northwest Commission recommended that WSU “regularly and systematically assess the general education curriculum and document that assessment activities lead to improvement.” The second formal recommendation of the report was that “improvement be made in the mentoring of part-time and adjunct faculty, as well as in expanding their professional development opportunities.”

Since receiving these recommendations, WSU took significant steps to address both the recommendation regarding general education assessment and the recommendation regarding the evaluation and professional development of adjunct faculty.

Actions that have been implemented to improve general education assessment include:

• creating a standing committee with oversight over the general education program (The General Education Improvement and Assessment Committee);

• engaging the campus in a conversation regarding the purpose of WSU’s general education program;

• more clearly articulating general education outcomes to the campus community;

• collecting data at entry and during the first-year (i.e., Accuplacer and CLA Exam);

• collecting data at different points in the undergraduate experience (e-portfolio);

• collecting data at the conclusion of the senior year (CLA Exam);

• creating a pilot to use senior capstone courses as an assessment mechanism;

• and articulating a process to use assessment data to improve general education.

There has been significant improvement in assessment at WSU since 2005. Presently, different assessment mechanisms are in place to measure student learning at various points during their undergraduate experience.

Since 2005, WSU has taken actions that have significantly improved the evaluation and professional development of adjunct faculty.

• University policy has been amended to clarify responsibility for the evaluation of adjunct faculty.
• The mentoring and professional development of adjunct faculty has been enhanced at the departmental level, with special attention devoted to those departments using a significant number of adjunct faculty.

• University-wide professional development opportunities have been created.

• A variety of online resources have been created for adjunct faculty.

On April 30, Dr. Harold A. Dengerink, Chancellor of Washington State University Vancouver, visited WSU to review the progress which WSU had made toward addressing the Northwest recommendations. A report prepared by Dr. Dengerink concluded:

Weber State University has made substantial progress in addressing the previous concerns of the Commission. The policies and procedures for evaluation, mentoring and professional development of adjunct faculty are in place, have been executed and plans are in place for their continuation. Allocation of responsibility for General Education improvement and assessment has been made to the newly formed standing committee of the faculty senate. Learning outcomes have been identified and approved. Methods for assessment are currently being identified and these will provide the foundation for continuous improvement of the General Education program. Much still needs to be done but WSU has demonstrated the commitment and enthusiasm to maintain this momentum.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PROGRAMS

The past academic year saw the creation of new degree programs. On June 9, 2006 the Board of Regents approved the WSU Master of Health Administration degree. The following month, the Regents approved the Master of Arts in English degree. The Masters of Athletic Training degree was approved in July 2007. This brings the number of graduate degrees at WSU to seven. Approval for a Master of Science in Nursing is anticipated by the end of 2007. During the 2006-07 year there were 429 FTE graduate students enrolled at WSU and more than 2,800 duplicated registrations in graduate courses.

In June 2007, the Board of Regents approved WSU’s request to establish a Community Involvement Center dedicated to engaging students in service experiences in the community. The Community Involvement Center represents an intentional and strategic partnership between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to facilitate a civically engaged learning experience for Weber State University students. The mission of the center is to engage students and faculty members in a process which combines community service and academic learning in order to promote civic participation, build community capacity, and enhance the educational process.

During the past academic year, interest in environmental issues was heightened. In part, the increased interest in issues relating to the environment and sustainability reflects an international trend, but the leadership of a few faculty and a member of the Board of Trustees also helped to drive WSU’s environmental efforts forward. The Faculty Senate created an Ad Hoc Committee for Environmental Issues. A number of successful campus-wide events were also devoted to
environmental issues. The 2006-07 year laid an important foundation for WSU’s environmental efforts which will likely occupy the attention of the campus in coming years.

HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

Placement Testing

WSU created a new Assessment and Placement policy, approved by the Faculty Senate September 2005, to which all new students are subject. It specifies that incoming students, as of Spring Semester 2006, are required to take the Accuplacer assessment test. The intent is to help students succeed by placing them in math and composition courses that match their skill level.

As an outcome of testing, many students who would have previously been required to complete developmental courses (i.e., math and English courses numbered below the 1000 level) are now being placed in college-level courses (i.e., Math 1010 or higher, and English 1000 or higher). As a result of students placing into higher-level math and composition courses, the enrollment in WSU’s developmental courses is falling. In the fall 2005 term, the number of students in developmental math and composition courses was 2,001. For the fall 2006 term, the first fall term in which the mandatory assessment policy was in place for entering students, the number of students enrolled in developmental courses declined to 1,780. Testing in the college-level math and composition courses has not changed, and pass rates in these courses have not declined. This indicates that the Accuplacer Exam has successfully placed students into courses where they are capable of succeeding.

Developmental Math

A new Developmental Mathematics Program was established in the College of Science, effective July 1, 2007. After numerous discussions over several years, both formally and informally, within the Mathematics Department, and with various groups across campus, it was concluded that it is appropriate to establish a separate program in developmental mathematics to better serve the students, and to more clearly clarify the various missions of mathematics at WSU. This decision is also in keeping with Weber State University’s goal of attracting and retaining students whose personal goals require post-secondary educational opportunities. Under the new structure, the Mathematics Department will continue to serve those students taking courses numbered 1030 and above, including all Quantitative Literacy courses, Mathematics Education courses, and traditional mathematics courses for Mathematics majors, minors, and other programs requiring math. The new Developmental Mathematics Program will focus on providing education to students who are taking developmental mathematics courses numbered lower than 1030.

A MULTI-CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

WSU Davis

WSU strengthened the partnership with the Northern Utah Academy of Math, Engineering and Science (NUAMES), an early college charter high school. NUAMES is in the process of moving
its Kaysville and Roy campus operations to the WSU Davis campus and will begin classes in the Fall of 2007. Portable classrooms and an office portable have been brought in and installed on the west side of the existing classroom building at WSU Davis. These classrooms will be available to Weber State University in the evenings, allowing the expansion of evening programs. This partnership is expected to develop further as NUAMES partners with WSU in the construction of a new classroom building on the Davis campus.

Two new graduate degree programs were brought to the Davis campus in the past academic year. The master’s degree in English and the master’s degree in health administration have both had a successful first year, and enrollment in these two degree programs is expected to double in the coming year. In addition, an associate’s degree in computer electronic engineering technology was brought to the Davis campus in the Fall of 2006.

The first cohort of nursing students from the WSU Davis Campus Associate Degree program graduated this year. Another cohort of 30 students has been accepted for the fall. The first cohort of 30 accelerated AD nursing program students began in the fall of 2006, and 28 are scheduled to complete the curriculum at the end of the summer term 2007. There were over 100 applications for the next cohort of 30 scheduled to begin in fall 2007. The IHC major gift funds have been used to support the WSU Davis expansion and the accelerated program at the associate degree level.

With the addition of the new degree programs described above, a complete list of WSU Davis degree programs includes the following:

**Master’s Degrees**
- Accounting
- Business Administration (MBA)
- English
- Health Administration

**Bachelor’s Degrees**
- Business Administration
- Criminal Justice
- Electrical Engineering (in partnership with Utah State University)
- Elementary Education
- Health Administrative Services
- English
- Information Systems & Technology

**Associate’s Degrees**
- Computer Science
- Computer Electronic Engineering Technology
- Criminal Justice
- General Studies
- Information Systems & Technologies
- Nursing
- Pre-engineering
- Respiratory Therapy
In addition, the College of Applied Science and Technology started a partnership program with Utah State University to offer an Electrical Engineering degree at the Davis campus. Work is now underway to offer the necessary classes so that students can complete the entire degree on the Davis Campus.

**Continuing Education**

Enrollment in Continuing Education (CE) credit programs increased during the 2006-07 year. Total SCH’s for CE funded programs increased 3.2% in the 2006/07 academic year when compared to 2005/06. During this time period, SCH’s generated by face to face instruction increased by 1.4% (59,361 vs. 58,546) and online enrollments increased by 6.7% (72,000 vs. 67,455). However, independent study SCH’s deceased by 25.9% (3,396 vs. 4,586).

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<th>Online</th>
<th>Indep Study</th>
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**COMPREHENSIVE ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

This year, an Enrollment Management Task Force was formed with the goal of developing a comprehensive enrollment plan. There are five major foci of the Task Force: 1) the recruitment of new students, 2) increasing the retention and persistence of WSU students, 3) increasing the college participation rates of local students, 4) marketing to students, and 5) using the web to attract and retain students.

**DEVELOP A CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT OF SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF**

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

The fourth annual Undergraduate Research Symposium and Celebration was held on Monday, March 26, 2007. A total of 145 students participated with 94 entries, 54 posters, 38 oral
presentations and 2 musical performances. This represents a 16% increase from the 2006 symposium.

The Office of Undergraduate Research published the inaugural edition of *Ergo*, Weber State University’s Undergraduate Research Journal. Twenty nine students authored research in this new campus journal. The journal consisted of both featured full-length research articles as well as abstracts.

In June 2007, WSU learned that it had been selected to host the 2010 national Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) conference. This is a symbolic milestone for WSU’s undergraduate research efforts. Hosting the CUR will bring important national attention to WSU’s undergraduate research efforts.

The National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) was held in San Rafael, California. A total of 15 WSU students presented research at the NCUR conference.

The Office of Undergraduate Research distributed more than $152,000 in funds to support undergraduate research at WSU. A total of 78 research projects were funded, with 106 students participating in these projects. Of the 78 projects funded, 29 were for travel purposes. This allows students to present their research findings at various national conferences such as NCUR, CUR’s posters on the Hill, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Western Psychological Association Conference, Gordon Research Conference, National Federation of State Poetry Societies and the Geological Society of America.
NOTABLE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Weber State University English major Kory Fluckiger had a collection of his poems published as a result of being selected as the best in the nation by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). Fluckiger’s collection of original poems was awarded the Florence Kahn Memorial Publication Award-University Level.

- Issac Goeckeritz, a junior at Weber State University majoring in geography, showed his documentary film "Ogden: Junction City of the West" on April 25 at Peery’s Egyptian Theater. Goeckeritz started the project three years ago after visiting Union Station and talking with volunteers; Goeckeritz’s film received a WSU undergraduate research grant to support production.

- Michael Malmrose, a senior majoring in physics in the College of Science, discovered a previously unknown star using a new planet-hunting method developed at the university.

- WSU’s Christopher Bentley, Jennifer Cluff, Issac Goeckeritz and Tong (Miranda) Wu were selected as Governor’s Scholars which honors students from each of Utah’s colleges and universities who have demonstrated academic excellence during their freshman or sophomore years.

- A group of students at Weber State University received national recognition for research in the field of child and family studies. The research was conducted and written by four seniors pursuing their degrees in family studies, including: Misty Burnett, Ogden; Jacob Priest, Layton; Rachel Thompson, Morgan; and Anne Vogel, Ogden. Paul Schvaneveldt, assistant professor in WSU's Department of Child and Family Studies, served as faculty mentor for the project. The students' collaborative research paper, "Relationship Dissolution, Romance and Mate Selection Myths," was named the 2006 Outstanding Undergraduate Research Paper by the National Council on Family Relations. WSU students in family studies have received this award for three of the past four years.

- In July 2006, nineteen Weber State University students competed at the Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference in Nashville. The students placed first in five competitions and in the top 10 in 11 others.

SUPPORT FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

Assisted by the Teaching and Learning Forum, WSU has instituted on ongoing series of day-long, professional development retreats for adjunct faculty that focus on enhancing teaching skills and successfully using campus resources. The first retreat, held January 27, 2007, included, among other exercises, training with the Web CT course management software system. Faculty engaged in a seminar on teaching with the case method, a workshop on course planning, a discussion on team teaching, and an exercise on dealing with student disciplinary problems. In order to communicate the high institutional priority of the retreat, senior administrators and faculty led and also participated in the activities. Among these were the president, the provost, the vice president for student affairs, the chair of the Faculty Senate, and the current holder of a
prestigious faculty award, the Hinckley fellowship. Adjunct faculty evaluations of the retreat were overwhelmingly positive.

2007 marked the second year for the WSU Presidential Distinguished Professor award. The Presidential Distinguished Professor award is an important component in WSU’s system of faculty recognition and rewards. Three faculty members were selected to receive the Presidential Distinguished Professor honor this year. Psychology professor Eric Amsel, Clinical Laboratory Sciences professor Yasmen Simonian and English professor Michael Wutz are the 2007 recipients of WSU’s Presidential Distinguished Professor award. Funding for the annual recognition program was made possible by a gift from a donor.

The John A. Lindquist Award was created this year to recognize outstanding contributions in the area of service learning. Associate history professor Kathryn L. MacKay was selected as the first recipient of the John A. Lindquist Award for her work in mentoring students in learning through community involvement. The award is named for John A. Lindquist, a strong advocate for education and the community. John’s daughter Kathryn Lindquist, a member of the WSU Board of Trustees, was instrumental in establishing the new award.

For the third time in four years, a WSU faculty member was selected as Utah's professor of the year. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education selected Eric Amsel, professor and chair of WSU’s Department of Psychology, as the 2006 Utah Professor of the Year. In 2005, clinical laboratory sciences chair and professor, Yasmen Simonian was honored as Utah's Professor of the Year. Political Science professor Frank Guliuzza received the honor in 2003. Receiving this award for the third time in four years is a powerful testament to the quality of the Weber State University faculty.

The Utah Humanities Council recognized Weber State University associate history professor Kathryn MacKay with the 2007 Distinguished Humanities Award. The award is UHC’s most prestigious honor and is presented to one individual for a lifetime of commitment and achievement. Some of MacKay’s work includes helping local museums design historical exhibits, facilitating book discussions at libraries around the state, and serving this year as the primary scholar for the Utah tour of the new Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit, “Between Fences.”

Weber State University physical education professor Monica Mize was named president-elect for the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD), an organization dedicated to promoting creative and healthy lifestyles. For the next three years, Dr. Mize, will be a national spokeswoman for AAHPERD, advocating quality, well-balanced physical education programs in the nation’s schools.

Two Weber State University professors received a 2007 Utah System of Higher Education Exemplary Faculty Use of Technology Award. Craig Chugg, assistant professor of health sciences, and Leah Murray, assistant professor of political science, were recognized for their use and implementation of technology into distance learning and classroom instruction.
Chugg received the award for his work in using technology to engage distance education students, while Murray was recognized for her use of emerging technologies and mentoring.

FOSTER CONNECTIONS WITH EXTERNAL COMMUNITIES

In November, WSU was selected as the site for a Technology Innovation Center that will support the Utah Science, Technology and Research (USTAR) initiative. The new center, one of five planned throughout the state as part of USTAR’s Technology Outreach Program, will bring together local businesses and industry, government agencies, and area educational institutions with the goal of sparking new business development, enhancing the climate for innovation, and stimulating the creation of more jobs. Curt Roberts, previously a vice president for Nike and an alumnus of Weber State University, was selected to direct the Innovation Center and serve as vice provost for Innovation & Economic Development at the university.

Weber State University continued to have a strong presence in the Davis County business community. As the past chair of the board, the director of WSU Davis served on the board of the Davis Chamber of Commerce. Members of the WSU Davis faculty and staff served on the Chamber’s education committee, leadership academy committee, legislative affairs committee, economic development committee, and the Lakesiders ambassador group. In addition, WSU Davis was a co-sponsor and host for the annual Davis Chamber of Commerce Leadership Summit, which was held at the Davis campus during March 2006. The director of WSU Davis also serves on several other prominent boards in Davis County, including the boards of the Davis Arts Council, Davis Cable 17, and as president of the Layton Rotary Club.

The WSU Davis advisory council met twice during the past year to discuss issues and concerns surrounding the Davis campus and to provide university administrators an opportunity to solicit support for the campus. This 20 member council represented a wide range of community groups, including education, business, industry, government, and the arts. A full listing of advisory council members can be found in the appendix.

The Dental Hygiene Department continues its affiliation with the Midtown Community Health Center. The Weber-Midtown Dental Clinic provides services to a great number of community members who are otherwise underserved. Dental Hygiene also provides dental screenings and sealant placement for elementary school children from Dee, Lewis, and T.O. Smith elementary schools in Ogden. Finally, that department offers dental screenings to the Children’s Health Connection (more than 1,700 children) and the Women’s Health Connection (250 women) through participation of students and faculty in an annual health fair.

SPONSORED PROJECTS FUNDING

During Fiscal Year 07, Sponsored Projects has maintained a strong base of dollar funding for externally funded projects in spite of the general decrease of federal and state dollars available for such projects. Both Hurricane Katrina and the Middle East conflict have resulted in a shift of federal resources away from university programs. The elimination of Fiscal Year 07 earmarks negatively impacted most universities. Many federal projects have gone unfunded. For example, Health Careers Outreach Program which was successfully bid and won by WSU was
discontinued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, resulting in a loss of over $900,000 for WSU.

While most universities report a Fiscal Year 07 drop of 15 to 30 percent, WSU has sustained only a 2.2 percent drop. The number of total dollars managed by OSP at the close of the fiscal year was $10,230,619. OSP anticipates future growth through new faculty development, cultivation of current principal investigators, and funding through the federal appropriation process.

**WSU Dollars in Sponsored Projects**

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**PRIVATE DONATIONS**

- In November, the pre-med program received $2 million in funding through a gift from a private donor. As a result of the gift, the program will be known as the Dr. Ezekiel R.
Dumke Family Pre-Medical Program. Dr. Dumke’s name has a familiar ring on campus, as WSU’s College of Health Professions also is named in his honor. Housed in WSU’s College of Science, the pre-medical program has earned a reputation for doing an outstanding job of preparing students for the rigors and challenges of medical school.

- In September, WSU announced that a $1 million gift from Vernon Buelher would create a new leadership chair in the John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics. The chair will be held by the dean, and as holder of the Buehler Leadership Chair, the dean of the Goddard School will be expected to engage in significant civic and academic events locally, nationally and internationally and to attract noted business and economic leaders to the WSU campus. At least once a year, the dean will be responsible for hosting a major lecture for the campus or community, which will be known as the Vernon M. and MaRee Buehler Lecture.

- The Dumke Family Interdisciplinary Simulation Laboratory opened this year as a state-of-the-art simulation center. This was the culmination of a $400,000 gift from the Dumke Family Foundation, and intensive work on the part of faculty and staff primarily from the nursing, respiratory therapy, and emergency care and rescue departments. $83,459 from the gift was spent this spring to acquire equipment for the Simulation Lab in order to begin using it for student simulation experiences. Funds from the Dumke endowment will be used to fund a simulation technician to operate and maintain the laboratory this coming fiscal year.

**ENHANCE THE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT THROUGH INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY**

Weber State University’s Small Business Development Center held its first Smart Start business seminar in Spanish at the Business Information Center in downtown Ogden. By providing the services of the Small Business Development Center in Spanish, WSU will make it easier for Hispanic entrepreneurs to understand the many complexities of operating a business in Utah.

In September, Weber State University hosted the 16th Annual Conference of the International Association of Hispanic Women Literature which sponsored two free poetry readings with internationally recognized Spanish poet Ana Rossetti.

**LOOKING AHEAD: NEXT YEAR AND BEYOND**

At WSU there is a strong commitment among faculty, staff, and students to a shared vision. A recent planning effort, focused on the year 2030, did not change the basic direction for WSU but strengthened the commitment to a shared vision for excellence. The dedication of our faculty, the quality of the undergraduate education provided to our students, the strength of our academic programs, and our commitment to fostering partnerships with the broader community create the potential for WSU to establish itself as one of the nations best comprehensive universities.