Spring is a time of celebration at Utah State University-Uintah Basin. We recognized more than 100 students earning their associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degrees in over 26 different academic programs at commencement this year. It was a wonderful opportunity to honor the hard work and dedication of these students, appreciate the commitment and support provided by a wonderful professional faculty and staff, and the ongoing support of the entire Uintah Basin community. Graduates of our local campus are entering the workforce in healthcare, education, business, research, government agencies and industry.

As we look back over this year, we recognize four of our full-time faculty were promoted from the rank of assistant professor to associate professor with tenure. Becky Williams (biology), Ben Burger (geology), Mike Christiansen (chemistry and biochemistry), and Clayton Brown (history) have all worked hard to make this step forward and we appreciate their commitment to our local campus and students. Utah State University-Uintah Basin is a community treasure and represents decades of dedication by many people and the vision of early pioneers of increasing the local educational opportunities.

Rich Etchberger will continue to be an advocate for USU-Uintah Basin in his new assignment as vice provost of Regional Campuses. We are sad to see both Rich and Lianna Etchberger leave, but know they will always be supportive of our campus. In addition to Rich accepting a new assignment in the provost’s office, we were also thrilled to learn that our very supportive provost, Noelle Cockett, was selected as the next president of Utah State University. For those of us who work closely with President Cockett, this was great news because of her appreciation for state wide and regional campus education.

Over the years, our nursing program and partnership with the Uintah Basin Applied Technology College (UBATC) has continued to grow and we appreciate the hard work of our faculty and the support of Ashley Valley Regional Medical Center, Uintah Basin Medical Center, and the Uintah Impact Mitigation Special Service District. We continue to have wonderful success and maintain 100% pass rates of the nursing licensure exam. This could not have happened without our partnership with the UBATC. Fall enrollment in our nursing program doubled and we wish to thank Susan Rasmussen for her hard work. She will be retiring this summer.

With the faculty departures and retirements, we are excited to welcome new faculty replacements and staff to our team. Further information about our new faculty will be provided in press releases when all of our searches are final. However, we want to recognize our new Associate Director and Director of Students Cameron Cuch, who joined our team in March. Cameron brings educational and energy industry experience and we are grateful to have him leading our student services team. We also thank David Law, who has been leading our student services team and will continue as a faculty member, as well as a third member of our leadership team as an associate director.

A review of this year at Utah State University-Uintah Basin would not be complete without recognizing the diversity of students we teach and serve. Over one third of our 700 students are still in high school but beginning their university studies through concurrent enrollment. This energetic and eager group is critical to our campus success and we value the strong partnership with the Uintah County School District, the Duchesne County School District and the Terra Academy. This partnership is not only critical to current high school students, but also to the professional teaching staff in the districts.

Looking forward, we will be expanding our graduate social work degree and including an undergraduate option. The early childhood education program is also growing to meet a wider range of needs and to be more supportive of our diverse learners. These new programs will be a wonderful addition to the many academic options we currently provide. For a complete list of all our degrees, visit our website or drop by and speak with one of our student services staff. Speaking of options, we will continue to host and provide a number of summer camps and opportunities for students of all ages, as well as ongoing research opportunities for high school and university students throughout the summer.

We, the entire Utah State University-Uintah Basin staff and faculty, recognize and appreciate the support of the community and thank our students and partners for a wonderful year. As the executive director of the campus, I wish to thank the entire community for the warm and wonderful welcome my family and I received as we settled in our home in the Basin last year. We live in a beautiful place and Utah State University-Uintah Basin is pleased to be a part of the educational community.

James Y. Taylor
Executive Director
Utah State University-Uintah Basin
On April 29, 2017, hundreds of people came to celebrate the 114 graduates receiving degrees from Utah State University-Utah Basin. Seven graduates received high honors, 13 received honors, four graduated cum laude, one graduated magna cum laude and one graduated summa cum laude. There were 16 graduates with master’s degrees.
Uintah Basin Applied Technology College
President’s Message

Congratulations high school seniors, Uintah Basin Applied Technology College (UBATC) graduates, and graduates of Utah State University-Utah Basin. I feel confident in saying your future is bright!

This is the beginning of a new chapter in your life. What will this chapter be titled? What story will this chapter tell? Your future holds the answer to these questions as your decisions will determine its content.

All educational opportunities and pursuits will help you to build a bright future. Your accomplishments will allow us to enjoy hospitals with trained nurses, nurse assistants, medical assistants, and pharmaceutical technicians. The energy industry will continue to safely provide us with products that fuel our lives. Our food supply will be produced, delivered and professionally prepared. Homes will safely be built and beautifully finished. The transportation we depend on will remain reliable. Businesses will flourish and quality will increase. Objects will be shaped, bridges will be built and infrastructure will remain in place and our streets will be safe. Because of you, our world will be better.

We express our gratitude and thank our many educational partners – Ute Tribe Higher Education, Department of Workforce Services, Division of Rehabilitation, The Huish Foundations, The Crescent Point Annuity Scholarship, The UBATC Foundation Scholarship, The Duchesne County Residence Scholarship Program and the Uintah County Residence Scholarship Program. Many of our adult students would not have been able to attend UBATC without your financial contributions.

Thank you to those who make education a priority for all those who live in our communities. Thank you to those who have been a support to all graduates - parents, spouses, children, and friends - we salute you.

We celebrate your success and please remember to dream big, plan big, and move forward, your story is about to be written!

Aaron K. Weight
College President
Uintah Basin Applied Technology College
Kendra Jones was a student speaker and student of the year for Uintah Basin Applied Technology College, on May 3, 2017, during the graduation ceremony at the Uintah Conference Center.

Kassie Jones sang the National Anthem, kicking off the 2017 Uintah Basin Applied Technology College graduation ceremony on May 3.

Welcoming remarks were given by Uintah Basin Applied Technology College President Aaron Weight at the 2017 graduation ceremony on May 3 at the Uintah Conference Center.
2017-2018 Sterling Scholars

Union High School

Patricia Allred
Agricultural Sciences

Delaney Baier
World Languages

Cayden Bailey
Business and Marketing

CONGRATULATIONS!
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Family and Consumer Science

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Coleman Miles
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Preston Pack
Speech/Theatre Arts/Forensics
Aria Pospisil  
Vocal Performance  

Daniel Richards  
Computer Technology  

Gabe Snow  
Math  

Casidee Thompson  
English  

Tanner Wallace  
General Scholarship  

Aaron Wheelwright  
Social Science
Union High School

Nick Squire
Science

Dean B. Anderson
Science

Ethan Schoenfeld
Agricultural

Uintah High School

Cera Rushe Walker
Business and Marketing

John Warden
Computer Technology

Jaecee Henline
Dance
Uintah High School

Tina Marie Penttila  
English

Erin Richards  
Consumer Sciences

Ciera Dockins  
Instrumental

Uintah High School

Brecken Chase Beers  
Mathematics

Danielle Dixon  
Social Science

Brant Shanon Johnson  
Speech
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Uintah County Resident Scholarship

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Kaylie Grant
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Science

Gabriel Lamborn  
Speech and Drama

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Victoria Dissel  
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Madison Adams  
Vocal

Emily Jessen  
Family and Consumer Science
Duchesne High School

David Vantassell
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Katelyn Luthy
Social Science

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Utah State University UNTAH BASIN

*Education Pays, 2016
Tabiona High School

Jenica Jenkins
Social Science

Brennan Wagner
World Languages

Gracie Rhoades
Instrumental Music

Tabiona High School

Mason Hamilton
Agricultural Science

Karson Lewis
English

Daniel Ludwig
Business and Marketing

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Visit uintahlibrary.org/summerreading to register for the 2017 Summer Reading Program at Uintah County Library. New for 2017 reading points tracking and challenges are online. The more reading you do the more chances to win amazing prizes!

Join us in June and July for weekly activities Thursday mornings from 10-12!
Altamont High School

Colton Atwood
Agriculture Science

Katelyn Miles
Dance

Wyatt Thacker
English

Rhianna Reid
Computer Technology

Shaylee Rowley
Family and Consume Sciences
Altamont High School

Jillian Pugh
Instrumental Music

Rashea Thacker
Social Science

Kiara Goodrich
Speech/Theater Arts/Forensics

Altamont High School

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To our local graduates - we congratulate you. We wish you well as you begin a new adventure. Remember that success is not the key to happiness, happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.