



Press Release

Utah College of Applied Technology

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UCAT Board of Trustees Appoints Robert O. Brems as President

After reconsidering action taken in October, the Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) Board of Trustees appointed Robert O. Brems as president of UCAT this afternoon in a special meeting.

The board considered public input on the presidential selection and interviewed Michael J. Bouwhuis and Brems, the two finalists identified by the board's selection committee. After more than three hours of interviewing and deliberation, the Board voted to appoint Brems.

“We had two excellent candidates,” said board chair Tom Bingham. “Both would be excellent presidents, and the board had a difficult decision between the two. Both have significant experience within UCAT and are highly qualified to move the system forward.”

Bingham indicated that revisiting the process provided a valuable opportunity to fully and more publicly consider the candidates' backgrounds and to address questions and concerns by board members and the public.

“The public comment was rich in observations and considerations for both candidates and for the process as a whole,” Bingham said of messages provided to the trustees in the past week. “We greatly appreciated and value the many comments we received. Board members had the opportunity to ask serious questions of both candidates reflected in those public comments, and were satisfied with the responses. These are both people of high integrity.”

“I appreciated the board's extra effort to assure the process fully satisfied their concerns as they fulfill their responsibilities to the public,” said Brems. “This is a very important time for UCAT and Utah. I am anxious to join with the Board

of Trustees in behalf of our great state to build on what UCAT has accomplished so far and provide the best technical education and workforce preparation in the world.”

“Mr. Brems is the right one to take UCAT forward,” said Bingham. “His experience, understanding and passion for industry-driven career and technical education will serve Utah well.”

Brems will begin his duties on December 1. Brems has been serving as a program director for Dixie Applied Technology College, one of UCAT’s eight regional campuses. He has also worked recently as a private consultant implementing manufacturing training and education programs in southern Utah. He served a previous appointment as UCAT president from 2006-2007.

Brems has more than 30 years experience as an administrator and instructor in career and technical education. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in industrial education from Utah State University.

UCAT is the parent organization for Utah’s eight regional applied technology colleges (ATCs). Established by the State of Utah, UCAT provides market-driven technical education through eight ATCs that meets the needs of Utah’s employers for skilled workers.

The ATCs prepare both adult and high school students to enter or advance in the workplace. Customized training is also provided to employers for their work force through UCAT’s Custom Fit program.

The eight ATCs are Bridgerland, Davis, Dixie, Mountainland, Ogden/Weber, Southwest, Tooele, and Uintah Basin. For more information, visit www.ucat.edu.

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