

July 2, 2021

Dear Dixie State University neighbors,

As DSU moves forward with the name recommendation of Utah Tech University, we appreciate your interest during this pivotal moment in our history. We know this topic has overtaken your social media feeds and family dinners for the past year, but this exhaustive process was necessary to establish the strongest name possible. The Utah Tech University name embodies our trailblazing spirit of forging stronger paths for others to follow.

Career Ready Mission

Many of you have asked why DSU is moving toward a polytechnic focus and what that means. Starting in 2014, we set out to discover what kind of university we needed to become. We talked personally with hundreds of you. You shared the types of employees you needed, the skills you required, and most importantly, your great desire for your children and grandchildren to earn a livable wage and raise their families in Washington County.

Consequently, we studied the most effective teaching models in the nation. Considering our workforce needs, we gravitated toward a polytechnic mission that provides career readiness for all students and adds much-needed programs in the STEM and healthcare fields. This model is similar to other prestigious state-funded comprehensive universities like Texas Tech, Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, and Cal Poly. There are approximately 33 polytechnic/technological institutions in the nation, but there are no such declared institutions in our state or surrounding region. It is a national best practice for states to support both technical/vocational colleges and polytechnic/technological universities to fulfill vital workforce needs. On any given day in the tech sector alone, there are 12,000 to 15,000 available jobs starting at \$80,000 a year within 300 miles of St. George. As an institution of higher learning, we must adapt to meet these demands.

As a result, in the last five years alone, DSU has added 111 programs with 85% of them in the STEM and healthcare disciplines. We created active learning experiences for all students and nearly doubled our facilities. With this mission, we will continue to offer exceptional hands-on experiences in more than 200 academic disciplines at the lowest university tuition cost in the state. Please take a moment to learn more about this focus and how it will impact all of us at dixie.edu/polytech.

Comprehensive Process

Many have asked about DSU's name recommendation process. Was it comprehensive enough? Did it take enough time? Did it include enough people? The simple answer to all these questions is a resounding YES. The yearlong process included more than 20,000 responses through surveys, interviews, focus groups, listening meetings, and more. In addition to fulfilling instructions from the Utah State Legislature, Utah Board of Higher Education, and DSU Board of Trustees, the

Name Recommendation Committee considered countless factors such as trademarks, acronyms, availability, double meanings, stakeholder feedback, and more.

The process will continue as the Utah Tech University recommendation goes to the Utah Board of Higher Education and the state legislature for final approval. The sheer magnitude of this discussion has generated many narratives, and while some have been correct, others have been greatly misconstrued. You can find accurate, up-to-date information regarding the process, timeline, data, frequently asked questions, and much more at dixie.edu/nameprocess.

Utah Tech University

Although it is impossible for tens of thousands of individuals to agree on a topic as subjective as a name, it is our hope you will understand the sincerity and significance of this process. We are working to secure the most authentic and aspirational name possible for our school, and based on countless factors, Utah Tech University is that name. Of the top 100 ranked universities in the U.S., more than 60 include the name of their state and many are technological or polytechnic institutions.

We will continue to support the local name of Dixie and protect the D on the Hill. DSU has plans to create a special committee to preserve our heritage and maintain our traditions. A Utah Tech Trailblazer will honor the contributions of our pioneers while creating a thriving future for generations to come.

Thank you for your partnership. We would not be the University we are today without you, our community.

Sincerely,

DSU Board of Trustees