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September 9, 2009

For Immediate Release

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Media Advisory:
Superintendent to Announce Utah's Race to the Top Request; Education Leaders to Sign Promises to Keep on September 10

SALT LAKE CITY – Utah State Superintendent of Public Instruction Larry K. Shumway will be joined by Utah State Board of Education Chairman Debra G. Roberts, Board Vice Chair Dixie L. Allen , and Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Lane Beattie as they announce Utah's request for federal Race to the Top education funding on Thursday, Sept. 10. Roberts, Allen and Shumway will also sign the Board's Promises to Keep mission and vision statement for public education in Utah.

Race to the Top is a $4.35 billion federal grants competition among states to encourage education reform. Superintendent Shumway will discuss how much of that funding Utah will be seeking and for what programs. Chamber CEO Lane Beattie will also address the Race to the Top program.

Promises to Keep is the Utah State Board of Education's recently approved vision and mission statement for public education in the state. The four key promises outlined are:

- Ensuring literacy and numeracy for all Utah children.
- Providing high quality instruction for all Utah children.

- Establishing curriculum with high standards and relevance for all Utah children; and
- Requiring effective assessment to inform high quality instruction and accountability.

WHAT: Utah announces its request of the $4.35 billion in Race to the Top competitive education reform grants and educational leaders will sign the Promises to Keep mission and vision statement for Utah public schools.

WHEN: Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 1 p.m.

WHERE: Northwest Middle School, 1730 W. 1700 North, Salt Lake City; the event will be held outside the school to keep classroom distraction to a minimum; speakers will be at a podium

WHO: State Superintendent of Public Instruction Larry K. Shumway, Utah State Board of Education Chair Debra G. Roberts, Board Vice Chair Dixie L. Allen, Salt Lake Chamber President and CEO Lane Beattie

WHY: Race to the Top offers states considerable sums of cash to help improve student performance; this event will signal Utah's direction in that program; education leaders will also discuss how this fits in with Utah's Promises to Keep and will sign the Promises to Keep document.

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