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**UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

June 7, 2013

For Immediate Release

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## **Utah State Board of Education Names Joel Coleman USDB Superintendent**

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education today unanimously appointed District 6 Board Member Joel Coleman of West Jordan as new superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) effective July 1.

“Joel was highly involved in the restructuring of the school’s superintendency several years ago and the Board felt that with his private sector experience and charter school experience, he will bring a lot to the table as CEO of USDB,” said Utah State Board of Education Chair Debra G. Roberts. “We have listened to USDB’s stakeholders and the Board believes Joel will do well at bringing parents, students and USDB staff together.”

“The Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind have improved over the last few years,” Coleman said. “I look forward to building on that success in the future.”

Coleman was one of three finalists to replace retiring USDB Superintendent Steven W. Noyce. He is chair of the Board’s USDB Committee. He is a founder and trustee of the Monticello Academy charter school in West Valley City, a former West Valley City Councilman and is currently employed as a teacher for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

seminary program. He holds a master's degree in public administration from Brigham Young University.

Coleman will resign his seat on the Board before taking his new job at USDB for which he will earn \$130,000 annually.

The Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind serve about 1,700 students throughout the state and on the school's three campuses in Ogden, Salt Lake City, and Orem. 57 percent of students are served in local classrooms and 18 percent in USDB classrooms. Another 25 percent are served through parent-infant services. 61 percent of the students served are deaf and 39 percent blind.

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