



# NEWS RELEASE

## Utah State Board of Education

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## New Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Campus Opens in SLC

A ribbon cutting and celebration on Thursday marked the grand opening for a new Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) campus, which includes 10 additional classrooms and state-of-the-art gymnasium and theater facilities in Salt Lake City.

Named the C. Mark Openshaw Education Center in honor of the late member of the Utah State Board of Education, the 48,000-square-foot facility at 1655 East 3300 South provides space for blind and visually impaired, deaf-blind, and deaf and hard of hearing students.

Openshaw, who died with his wife and two children in a plane crash in June of 2015, was a supporter of USDB and its students.

“His life exemplified the kind of selfless service to individuals that we try to provide to our students,” said USDB Superintendent Joel Coleman. “We’re happy to be able to memorialize him in this manner and honored his surviving children and other family members could attend today.”

The Utah State Board of Education is the governing board of USDB, which also has a statutorily created [USDB Advisory Council](#). On Thursday, the two groups met jointly prior to the ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration.

**About the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind:** USDB offers comprehensive educational programs and services for Utah's deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, and deaf-blind children from birth to age 21 at no cost. Students receive services at either USDB campuses or through collaborative agreements with districts and charter schools where they attend school.

The USDB has served students with sensory impairments throughout Utah since 1884, when a school for the deaf first opened. When Utah attained statehood in 1896, members of the Constitutional Convention created a school for the blind. The two merged into what is known as USDB and were housed at Ogden's old Territorial Reform School. Over the years, services provided by USDB have met the changing needs of students and families through modern technology and teaching strategies.

[www.usdb.org](http://www.usdb.org)