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***Morningstar Nationally Ranks the Utah Educational Savings Plan
as a “Top” 529 College Savings Plan***

(Salt Lake City) Today the Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP), Utah’s official nonprofit 529 college savings program, is recognized nationally as a “Top” 529 college savings plan by Morningstar Inc., a leading provider of investment research. UESP is one of only six 529 plans to receive this ranking. “529 plans receiving a ‘Top’ rating incorporate the industry’s best practices, including solid investment choices at a fair price,” Morningstar states.

Morningstar reviewed 58 of the largest 529 college savings plans and in its analysis of UESP wrote, “The Utah Educational Savings Plan raises the bar. . . . The plan’s ‘Top’ rating reflects the straightforward, low-cost investment options and strong management.” They also praise UESP’s rock-bottom fees. “Most of its options have a total fee of less than 0.26 percent, cheaper than nearly all other plans,” Morningstar wrote.

“To be ranked among the nation’s top 529 plans by an entity as highly respected as Morningstar is an honor,” says Bill Sederburg, Utah’s Commissioner of Higher Education. “For today’s rising generation, a college degree is more important than perhaps ever before. UESP is a national leader in the effort to help families save now for college expenses later.”

Morningstar conducted in-depth research and analysis to help college savers make informed decisions about 529 plans and the investment options offered by each. Evaluation criteria included investment option portfolio, performance, and cost; skill of investment option managers; and stewardship practices of the plan’s administration.

“Morningstar and UESP are focused on exactly the same thing: building trust with the investor. We are honored by their spotlight on our daily efforts to do right by families who are saving for college,” says Lynne Ward, Executive Director of the Utah Educational Savings Plan. “Success for us is families who are financially prepared for college.”

About the Utah Educational Savings Plan

The Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP), Utah’s official nonprofit 529 college savings plan, manages more than \$4 billion in assets. UESP is consistently ranked among the nation’s top 529 plans. This ranking can be attributed to UESP’s efforts to be the industry’s low-cost leader and industry innovations, such as an FDIC-insured savings account and customized allocation investment options.

UESP requires no minimum deposits or balances to open an account, so families can save a little or a lot, according to their own schedules. With a user-friendly website, uesp.org, UESP makes it easy to open, manage, and contribute to an account online. Earnings on UESP accounts grow tax deferred and are federal and Utah state income tax free when used for qualified higher education expenses such as tuition, fees, certain room and board costs, and required books and supplies at any eligible educational institution that participates in federal financial aid programs for students, not just at institutions in Utah.

Utah taxpayers/account owners also receive a Utah state income tax credit for contributions to accounts each year. For 2011, Utah taxpayers can claim a 5 percent tax credit on UESP contributions up to \$1,740 *per qualified beneficiary* for single filers (\$3,480 *per qualified beneficiary* for joint filers). To receive the credit, the beneficiary on the account must have been designated as such before age 19.

Established by the Utah State Legislature in 1996, UESP is a nonprofit administered and managed by the Utah State Board of Regents and the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority. To learn more about the Utah Educational Savings Plan, call 800.418.2551 or visit uesp.org.

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Read the Program Description for more information and consider all investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses before investing. Call 800.418.2551 for a copy of the Program Description or visit uesp.org.

Investments in UESP are not guaranteed by UESP, the Utah State Board of Regents, the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) or any other state or federal agency. However, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance is provided for the FDIC-insured savings account. Please read the Program Description to learn about the FDIC-insured savings account. Your investment could lose value.

Non-Utah taxpayers and residents: You should determine whether the state in which you or your beneficiary pay taxes or live offers a 529 plan that provides state tax or other benefits not otherwise available to you by investing in UESP. You should consider such state tax treatment and benefits, if any, before investing in UESP.