

An Alliance for Education:

On July 26, on the Rim midpoint between Sunrise and Sunset Points in Bryce Canyon National Park, the Park and SUU signed a document to officially establish a cooperative working relationship that will benefit multiple parties, especially students.

The relationship and missions of both entities include specialized services to students, park visitors, and both cultural and economic development for the region. This Alliance for Education solidifies efforts of both entities to protect the Park resources and provide enhanced visitor opportunities; educate students about the Park's resources; expand knowledge and use of the Park as a resource; provide excellent educational and experiential opportunities for SUU students; and continue to enhance the economic, technological, and cultural development of the communities served. The research, training, and hands-on learning implications are all very attractive features, not too mention endless in potential.

SUU Interim President **Greg Stauffer** is very excited about this partnership. "The idea of having Bryce Canyon National Park as sort of an 'eastern campus' for our University is absolutely fantastic. This will expand the University's efforts in using its natural surroundings as a competitive advantage that can be integrated into SUU's strategic plan. There seem to be endless possibilities for employees, students, and the public and they're all win-win scenarios."

Equally pleased with the arrangement is Bryce Canyon's new superintendent, **Eddie Lopez**. "This

agreement will enhance the Park for all of our visitors and employees. It most certainly will provide excellent research and learning opportunities for SUU's students and faculty as well."

One example of how the two entities already are intertwined is illustrated in current functions of personnel. **Gayle Pollock** (*'88 Geology*), Executive Director of the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association (BCNHA), is a member of the Southern Utah University Board of Trustees. Also, BCNHA's board includes four SUU faculty: **Robert Eves, Jim Bowns, Ron Martin, and Les Jones**.

Pollock acknowledged, "Since it is such a competitive process for both entities to garner funding, this collaboration will help us both stretch our thin resources even further."

The Park and the University are mutually interested in partnering and cooperating in undergraduate and graduate level studies of the Park's natural and cultural resources, aspects of visitor use, quality of service, regional services, and tourism management.

The SUU Outdoor Center will benefit from enhanced access in utilizing the Park's many amenities. The new Bachelor of Science degree in Outdoor Recreation in Parks and Tourism starts this fall at the University and will be greatly enhanced by the ability to conduct research and instruction within a national treasure such as Bryce Canyon. "This will really make this new degree more valuable," says Provost **Abe Harraf**. "The Park will



SUU and Bryce Canyon National Park Partner-Up to Enhance “Higher” Education

make the program stronger and the students will make perfect interns and future employees for the Park.”

The High Plateaus Institute (HPI) at the Park is dedicated to improving stewardship of the Park’s natural and cultural resources. The HPI is designed to foster scientific inquiry, provide unique learning and experiential opportunities to students and southern Utah residents, and to engage the academic community. In turn, the University has numerous disciplines and degree programs which prepare students for careers in: natural and cultural resources management; public and business administration; hospitality and tourism services; web design; computer engineering; marketing and promotions; outdoor recreation; law enforcement; and geological studies, among others. All of these disciplines lend themselves to conducting research over the broad spectrum of natural, cultural, social, economic, and management sciences.

Both organizations are excited to make facts, methods, and new findings discovered through research available to scientists, teachers, the public, and local, state and federal agencies.

This partnership between Bryce and SUU will provide for: internship opportunities in the Park for University students; the chance for Park staff to serve on appropriate University committees; consultation

services for University students and faculty; office and lab space for University research whenever possible; participation in lectures, field trips and seminars; SUU library access for Park employees; and the dissemination of information about each other’s services.

SUU Board of Trustees Chair Dwayne Nielson said, “The excitement of the University’s administration over this arrangement, coupled with the elevation of **Wes Curtis’** role for Regional Services, shows the clear direction of SUU to reach out to the communities it serves.”

At the signing event, the proclamation was brought in on a relay of personalities from Bryce Canyon National Park and SUU. These individuals, consisting of students, alumni, and employees of both entities, signed the proclamation along with Dr. Stauffer and Superintendent Lopez. All parties are enthusiastic about the exciting opportunities for collaboration that will further educate and benefit students, personnel, visitors and surrounding communities. **SUU**

July 26, 2006 — A crowd of students, employees, alumni, Bryce Canyon National Park employees, and a few Park visitors passing by, gathered to witness the signing of the proclamation of the Alliance for Education between Bryce and SUU. Please see more news and photos about alumni at this event on the SUU Alumni website!

