Paint the Town Blue to Celebrate USU Moab and Graduates

USU Moab

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Moab Campus Celebrates Over 50 Years of Service to Grand County
- USU Moab

Moab, Utah - Moab’s businesses will Paint the Town Blue in celebration of Utah State University Moab’s graduates this spring. This inaugural event coincides with USU Moab’s commencement week in April, and the celebration of over 50 years in the Moab community.

USU Moab will host a contest to name Moab’s “True Blue Aggie Business of the Year” from the businesses that participate by decorating their windows and storefront to show their support of USU Moab and its graduates. In addition, a one-year scholarship to a local Moab student will be donated by the campus in the name of the winning business.

Founded in 1967, USU Moab was originally called the USU Southern Utah Education Center (SUEC), and was located in a house on Main Street. Two representatives from the local school district, Sam Taylor and Bill Meador, met with USU administration to arrange for USU courses to be offered in Moab, and classes launched in the fall 1967. Courses were initially taught by USU faculty from Logan who would travel to Moab by plane.

Since 1967 USU classes and education opportunities have been continuously offered in Grand County; however, technologies have improved allowing USU professors from across the state to teach through live, interactive video broadcasts instead of flying across the state. USU Moab now has eight full time faculty on its campus who interact in person with Moab students, and other USU students throughout the state through video broadcast.

In 2005 USU Moab moved to its current location at 125 West 200 South, where it has since expanded through purchasing buildings in the same complex. USU Moab now has over 100 students enrolled in classes, and is able to offer over 50 degrees and programs. Dr. Lianna Etchberger, Associate Vice President in charge of USU Moab, is proud to continue the legacy established over 50 years ago.

“It has been an amazing experience moving to Moab and becoming involved with the campus and community here.” commented Etchberger. “The community is committed to our campus, and to working with USU to continue growing the programs and education opportunities available in Moab.”

Dr. Steve Hawks, former Executive Director and Dean of the USU Moab campus, and Moab native, highlights the involvement USU Moab has with community partners as a major influence on the past and continued success of the campus.

“Our partnership with the Hospital has been a big boost for our campus. As the new Moab Regional Hospital was being built we created a partnership that gave USU teaching space in the hospital. Because of the relationship we now have CNA, Medical Assisting, Registered Nursing, Pharmacy Tech, and Surgery Tech programs available in Moab,” remarked Hawks.

Local businesses that wish to celebrate our Moab graduates by participating in the Paint the Town Blue event in April should contact Samantha Campbell for more information. samantha.campbell@usu.edu 435.797.5110

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