



COUNSEL In remarks offered prior to his dedicatory prayer, President Thomas S. Monson encouraged students to prepare for a complex, rapidly changing society. He also counseled teachers and administrators to give their best to their students.

A happy return

to evolving school

Church president dedicates high-tech library at Utah Valley University

BY JASON SWENSEN
Church News
staff writer

OREM, UTAH

President Thomas S. Monson's participation in the July 1 dedicatory event at Utah Valley University was a return of sorts for the Church leader to this evolving state school. More than three decades ago, then-Elder Monson of the Quorum of the Twelve attended the 1975 groundbreaking ceremony that signaled the beginning of the college.

“What began as the Utah Vocational College has evolved over the years to meet the expanding needs and to eventually take its place beside our other state universities.”

President Monson, then a member of the Utah State Board of Regents, remembers the day that Wilson Sorenson, president of Utah Vocational College, held ground-breaking services, with Gov. Calvin Rampton participating.

Adventuresome educators such as President Sorenson, said President Monson, are true pioneers.

“One of the great definitions of the word *pioneer* is ‘One who goes before, showing others the way to follow,’” he said. “So to all the pioneers who have pre-

ceded this day, you have shown us the way to follow.

“Thank you to each of you.”

The Church president called it an honor to dedicate “this beautiful building” and join in celebrating the newly named Utah Valley University.

“What began as the Utah Vocational College has evolved over the years to meet the expanding needs and to eventually take its place beside our other state universities,” he said.

Literally thousands of students have benefit-

ted from the Orem institution of higher learning that annually draws thousands of students; Latter-day Saints comprise a large percentage of its enrollment. President Monson spoke of the precious value of learning and cited a statement on education from Abraham Lincoln: “I can only view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in.”

Utah Valley University enrolls a diverse student body, spanning all ages and backgrounds. But all come to learn valuable, lifelong skills, said President Monson.

“We live in a complex, rapidly changing society,” he said. “What we learn at this institution will help us prepare for even further changes in the years ahead.”

There is little room for unskilled labor, he added. “The ‘Uneducated Need Not Apply’ is the unseen sign on many employment doors.”

President Monson also counseled those charged with educating at UVU — the administrators and teachers. “You will stand before those who have struggled and saved and planned so that they might be your students. Treat them with dignity and provide them your very best.”

Through dedication and love, a teacher can bless “generations yet to be born.”

In his dedicatory prayer, President Monson expressed gratitude for the university and its state-of-the-art Digital Learning Center.

“By thy holy hand, protect these facilities that no untoward incident may deface or destroy. May they truly be houses of learning,” he prayed.

President Monson then invoked a blessing that all might gain “the knowledge they seek as they come to Utah Valley University.”

Several other speakers at the ceremony preceded President Monson, including UVU President William A. Sederburg (who called President Monson “a true [UVU] Wolverine”) and four LDS members of the U.S. Congress from Utah: Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, Sen. Robert F. Bennett, Rep. Jim Matheson and Rep. Chris Cannon.

Photos by Stuart Johnson/Deseret News

The 190,000-square-foot Digital Learning Center is among the crown jewels of Utah Valley University.

