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UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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For Immediate Release

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Utah State Office of Education Media Advisory: Hundreds of Utah Students to Participate in Virtual Healthcare Interactive

SALT LAKE CITY – On Wednesday, March 30, Utah Career and Technical Education (CTE) high school students across the state will participate in a Virtual Healthcare Interactive live broadcast, in partnership with the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) and Intermountain Healthcare. The two-hour event begins with students watching a pre-recorded medical procedure followed by a live chat with physicians using real time technology. The healthcare topic this year is maternal and infant health. Students will watch a vaginal delivery and a caesarean birth.

There will be 10 broadcast sites with approximately 350 students participating from nine school districts and six high schools. The school districts are Canyons, Granite, Jordan, Murray, North Summit, Park City, Salt Lake City, Tooele, and Wasatch. The participating high schools are Kanab, Lake Powell, Ogden, Rich, Roy, and Weber.

USOE Health Science Education Specialist Thalea Longhurst says this program gives students interested in a medical career a unique experience.

“We can give them a video, and that can be a valuable experience,” Longhurst says. “But being able to sit down, talk live to the physician, ask questions and have those questions answered – that is where we find the value in this experience.”

The Virtual Healthcare Interactive is an annual event that engages students through technology and allows hospitals to bring students into their environment with limited liability exposure and minimal interruption to the hospital.

According to the Utah Department of Workforce Services, healthcare support occupations will see the fastest annual average growth rate in Utah through 2016. Healthcare and Social Assistance employs nearly 12 of every 100 workers in Utah.

Who: 350 high school students from nine school districts and six high schools and physicians from Intermountain Healthcare

What: Broadcast of a pre-recorded birth via vaginal delivery and caesarian delivery with a live chat between students and physicians.

Where: 10 broadcast sites throughout the state will link to the Utah State Office of Education via EdNet.

When: Wednesday, March 30 from noon-2 p.m.

More information: www.schools.utah.gov/cte/hs_vhi.html

Follow this event on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/UTPublicEd#>), Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/UtahPublicEducation>), and the Utah Public Education blog (<http://utahpubliceducation.org/>). Look for photos and videos from the event on Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/utahpubliceducation>) and YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/UtahPublicEducation>).

www.schools.utah.gov