1. **(SLIDE) OPENING**
   a. Welcome back to Weber State University!
   b. I am nearing my third year at this fantastic institution. And I have the privilege of overseeing many points of pride:
      i. the people (students, faculty and staff)
      ii. the campuses
      iii. our passion for serving students and community
   c. **(SLIDE) At Weber State, we help students transform their lives… for good.**

2. **(SLIDE) Who are those students that we help?**
   a. A sizeable majority, more than 70 percent, come from either Weber County or Davis County
      i. And more than 90 percent come from our state.
   b. **(SLIDE) Almost half of the degrees Weber State awarded to them last academic year were bachelor’s degrees**
      i. And more than 43 percent were associate’s degrees.
      ii. About 5 percent were master’s degrees
         1. As you know, we added two master’s
degree programs over the summer.

3. **(SLIDE)** Our Top 10 largest degree programs are loaded with STEM and healthcare programs. Our nursing program is the largest in the state, and the 7th-largest in the country. Our focus on maintaining great alignment with regional workforce needs was started by President H. Aldous Dixon in the 1940’s and continues today.

4. **(SLIDE)** And we are working hard to secure our students’ and our university’s future through Dream 125, the campaign for Weber State.
   a. **(SLIDE)** Today, I have some big news to announce. As of Sept. 30, Weber State has exceeded its goal of raising $125 million for our university’s future!
   b. We do have about eight months left in our campaign, however. So we intend to shoot even higher and finish even more impressively than we dared to dream in the beginning.
   c. There are still several projects associated with the campaign that need support.

5. This year has been a big one for accolades.
6. **(SLIDE)** Weber State is officially a great college to work for.
   a. Chronicle of Higher Ed recognized us for …
      i. for job satisfaction and support
      ii. work/life balance
      iii. facilities, workspaces, security

7. **(SLIDE)** Weber State and Ogden City jointly won the Larry Abernathy Award at the International Town & Gown Association Conference in June.
   a. The worldwide award recognizes excellent college-town relationships.

8. **(SLIDE)** In October, Latinos United Promoting Education and Civic Engagement (LUPEC) recognized WSU for our work with the Hispanic and Latino community in Ogden and the surrounding cities and towns.
   a. The LUPEC Award is in recognition of supporting and sponsoring the Ogden Hispanic Festival.
   b. Luis Lopez, president of LUPEC and Weber State University employee, was just elected to the Ogden City Council this November.
   c. Also in diversity news, Adrienne Andrews became WSU’s first chief diversity officer in May.
9. **(SLIDE)** The Princeton Review  
a. Recognized WSU as one of the best regional colleges in the West for 2015.

10. **(SLIDE)** New York Life and the Washington Center  
a. Chose Weber State as one of five recipients of their Higher Education Award for Civic Engagement  
   i. Brenda Marstellar Kowalewski, director of Weber State’s Center for Community Engaged Learning, accepted the award.

11. **(SLIDE)** Weber State’s Arts in the Park program received a 2015 Mayor’s Award from Ogden City.

12. **(SLIDE)** Weber State Facilities Management received the APPA 2015 Award for Excellence.  
a. This was given to only one school in the nation.

13. **(SLIDE)** And Weber State assisted Weber County and the organization Ogden Valley Starry Nights with getting North Fork Park designated as an International Dark Sky Park.  
a. Faculty members Jeremy Bryson and Stacy Palen, along with students, were involved in that
effort.

14. And now for some news on WSU’s growth.

15. (SLIDE) Weber State Farmington Station will have its official grand opening Tuesday.
   a. It features
      i. executive master of health administration
      ii. selected certificate programs

16. (SLIDE) The Tracy Hall Science Center is now 76 percent complete and is expected to be ready to open in fall of 2016.

17. (SLIDE) The Miller Administration Building was renovated over the summer. Okland Construction completed this project in only 91 days, which allowed us to move back into the building before the start of Fall semester.

18. (SLIDE) And speaking of renovated, I presented our proposed Social Science building renovation at the Capitol last month.
   a. Thank you for your support of that project and many others.
Performance Funding has received a lot of attention during the past year. At Weber State, we believe in a balanced approach to measuring institutional performance, one that takes into account access, affordability and quality.

a. As an open-enrollment institution, Weber State values access highly. So much so that it’s one of our core themes.

b. And our in-state tuition is among the lowest in the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report’s short list, so affordability is definitely one of our strong suits.

c. On to completion. It turns out that Weber State does really well at that too … if you give our students enough time.

i. Of all the students who entered WSU in 2001, 2002 and 2003 with the intent to earn a bachelor’s degree, 73 percent have already graduated,

ii. And another 6% are still working toward that degree!

iii. So our long-term graduation rate is nearly 80%

iv. In short, our Wildcats stick with it!

v. Nevertheless, we realize that 6-year
graduation rates are important, and we’re working to get our students to finish sooner.
1. Through degree mapping
2. Through mandatory orientation
3. Through an increased emphasis on academic advising
4. And other forms of incentives and encouragement.

20. (SLIDE) I look forward to continued leadership and guidance from the Regents, Commissioner Buhler and my fellow presidents as we navigate the challenges of performance funding, long-range strategic planning and many other issues.
   a. With your help, and the help of the great faculty staff and students at this university, I know that we can continue to make dreams happen in Utah.

21. Closing Positioning Statement
   We are Weber.
   We put teaching first. We forge strong connections. We are dedicated and resourceful, down to earth and forward thinking. We know how to challenge you, and we care enough to do it. We are proudly rooted in our community while we pioneer beyond boundaries. We
are unique in our ability to welcome everyone who
has a dream – to learn, to grow, to lead, to excel, to
find their passion, to provide for their family – and we
offer the personalized opportunities, experiences and
support to transform that dream into reality.
Our doors, and minds, are open.
WSU at a Glance (2014-15)
Fall 2014 Enrollment by COUNTY OF ORIGIN

Weber: 32.9%  Other Utah: 11.6%
Davis: 39.1%  Outside Utah: 8.1%
Salt Lake: 6.9%  International: 1.4%
Distribution of Graduates’ Degrees & Awards 2014-15

- 49.4% Bachelor’s Degrees
- 43.4% Associate’s Degrees
- 5.4% Master’s Degrees
- 1.8% Certificates
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<th>Rank</th>
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<td>10</td>
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THE CHRONICLE
2015 GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR®

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
During the 2015 International Town & Gown Association Conference, WSU and Ogden City were honored with the LARRY ABERNATHY AWARD recognizing the strong bond between the university and the city.
Solidarity Through Diversity
BEST REGIONAL COLLEGES 2015

Western
Mayor's Award: Arts in the Parks
Dark Sky Designation
Pull into Weber State Farmington Station
Tracy Hall Science Center Taking Shape
Improved Miller Administration
Social Science Building Renovation
PERFORMANCE-BASED FUNDING

access

affordability

completion
Bachelor's Degree Completion

• Of all the students who entered WSU in 2001, 2002 and 2003 with the intent to earn a bachelor’s degree, 73% have graduated successfully.

• Another 6% are still enrolled here and are still working on their degrees.
Wildcats Stick With It!