Ogden Charter Signing Remarks

I. OPENING
   Good evening, everyone. We are gathered here today to formalize an ongoing process that is bringing Ogden City and Weber State University closer to realizing a vision and identity as a College Town.

   What we are signing today is a framework for success. The destinies of Weber State University and its surrounding communities are intertwined ... When area neighborhoods and businesses succeed, Weber State succeeds.

II. HISTORY
   This partnership between Weber State and Ogden has deeper roots than you might imagine.
   In 1953 the Utah Legislature terminated its support of Weber College. But an outpouring of public support from Ogden reversed that decision by referendum, and the college thrived. Later, in 1962, Weber State became a four-year institution, again largely as a result of strong community support. Ever since then, the students, faculty and staff of this grateful institution have become increasingly engaged in community service and economic development. We are ready to be a College Town.

II. MILESTONE
   This document represents a milestone in collaboration between people who believe that the key to prosperity is unity. Our shared vision is to accelerate the rise of Ogden by making it a more attractive place to live, learn, work and play.

III. MUTUAL BENEFITS
   Better collaboration and coordination between the two entities will mean that:
   • community members will reap the educational, cultural and social benefits of their university; and
   • college students will enjoy increasing support of local businesses through retail discounting, internships, scholarships and jobs.

IV. BUILT TO LAST
   This charter is built to last. By formalizing our relationship, we create a foundation for our successors, both at the university and with Ogden City. We are building a College Town relationship that can continue to grow even stronger.

   We will strive together ... and we will thrive together.

   Thank you.