



J.J. Acker, Director,
Utah CPM Program



Keith Heaton,
President USCPM

2008 Graduation

By Keith Heaton and Sherry Saracino

It was another banner year for the Utah Certified Public Manager® Program as 103 individuals graduated from the program. For the first time in its 20 year history a graduation ceremony was held in Southern Utah as 22 graduates marched in Cedar City.

The Cedar City ceremony was held on Thursday, May 15, at Southern Utah University, and was presided over by J.J. Acker, Director, Utah CPM Program. Jean Mills-Barber, Deputy Director, DHRM, Keith Heaton, President, Utah Society of Certified Public Managers®, and Jill Carter, Instructor, gave congratulatory remarks.

The graduate address, given by Scott Dalebout, Dept. of Natural Resources, was well received as he iterated his reasons for taking CPM and the accomplishment he felt completing the program.



Scott Dalebout spoke on
behalf of the Cedar class

Georgia Beth Thompson, Cedar City Councilwoman and SUU associate for over 40 years, challenged graduates to go forward, being true to themselves, in an address inspired by a Henry Van Dyke poem titled "Four Things".

Graduates then received their completion certificates and congratulations from CPM and Department representatives. Photos were taken, and refreshments provided by USCPM were enjoyed as graduates and guests mingled and expressed their best wishes.



Georgia Beth
Thompson
addresses the
Cedar graduates

A Salt Lake City graduation ceremony was held at the Larry H. Miller Campus of Salt Lake Community College on July 10. J.J. Acker was again the master of ceremonies and welcomed the packed auditorium.

Jeff Herring, Executive Director, Department of Human Resource Management and Keith Heaton, gave brief congratulatory remarks.

Bettina Smith, Dept. of Workforce Service, spoke on behalf of the graduates and commented on how much she enjoyed and gained from the course work despite some initial reservations.



Bettina Smith spoke on
behalf of the Salt Lake
class

John Nixon, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget gave the keynote address challenging the graduates to hear the call for change and develop better ways to deliver public service.



John Nixon was the
keynote speaker in
Salt Lake



Congratulations to our 2008 CPM Graduates (Cedar above, Salt Lake below)



What better way than to participate in CPM and the Utah Society of Certified Public Managers.

The 2008 George C Askew Award was presented to the Quagga Quandry team for their outstanding CPM III team project. This award is given to the team that best exemplifies the philosophy of the American Academy of Certified Public Managers. The Quagga Team will now compete against other states winners in the national competition.

Graduates then received their completion certificates and hearty congratulations from CPM and Department representatives. Photos were taken and hugs and handshakes were shared. Refreshments were provided by the Utah Society of Certified Public Managers.



Askew Award recipients

Congratulations to all of the 2008 graduates!