



Department of Administrative Services
Press Release
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NEW UNIFIED STATE LAB GRAND OPENING -

Governor Gary Herbert and the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) officially opened the new Unified State Lab during a ribbon cutting ceremony. The 78,000 square-foot facility replaces the old lab, which was built in 1972 on the University of Utah campus.

The lab provides a variety of services critical to protecting the public's health in Utah. Such services include identification of emerging diseases, such as the H1N1 virus, newborn disease screening, forensic toxicology testing, chemical and bioterrorism agent testing, toxicology testing for the State Medical Examiner, and air, soil and water testing.

The new lab is unlike any other state-owned building. It incorporates an abundance of natural light and views, integrates public art as part of a 150-foot long canopy structure visible from I-215, and includes many sustainable design features.

"I'm proud to say our new lab meets the state's High Performance Building Standards in terms of energy efficiency and sustainability," said UDOH Laboratory Director Dr. Patrick Luedtke. "We've incorporated natural ventilation, a 'green roof,' solar power, and used 'slit windows' to limit the amount of afternoon heat that can enter the building, all in an effort to be good stewards of our resources."

Future plans for the USL site include construction of two more buildings that will consolidate lab functions from the Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Medical Examiner. The site also includes plans for a "Power Park" to demonstrate renewable energy systems using wind, solar and geothermal power.

The USL was designed and constructed through a collaborative design process by VCBO Architecture, Smith Group and Big-D Construction, and is being managed in partnership with the state's Division of Facilities Construction and Management.

This new facility is state of the art and houses the state lab bureaus of Chemical & Environmental Services, Forensic Toxicology, Laboratory Improvement, and Microbiology. It provides much needed additional space and systems beyond what was possible at the old lab building that was leased from the University of Utah. The new building has met the state's High Performance Building Standard, and has

employed energy saving features, including a living roof and solar collectors to offset the energy consumption of the facility.

It was constructed on state land north of the Rampton complex in Taylorsville and just west of I-215 by Big-D Construction, and was designed by VCBO Architecture in association with Smith Group. The Division of Facilities, Construction & Management handled overall project management.