

David L. Buhler, PhD

Regents Professor

Dr. Dave Buhler is a Regents Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Utah, teaching courses in American Politics and in the Masters of Public Administration program.

Buhler served as Utah's eighth Commissioner of Higher Education from 2012 – 2019. As Commissioner he was responsible for making recommendations to, and implementing the policies of, the State Board of Regents, which is the governing board of Utah's eight public colleges and universities. During his service as Commissioner he worked closely with the Board in the appointment of ten institutional presidents.

Previously, he served for nearly twelve years as Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs with responsibility for government and media relations. He also served as Interim Commissioner for eight months in 2008. Commissioner Buhler taught as an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at the University of Utah from 1990 to 2006, and was a member of the University of Utah Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2000.

Dr. Buhler served twelve years as an elected official, including two terms as a member of the Salt Lake City Council (2000-2007), and one term as a Utah State Senator (1995-1999). On the City Council he served as Council Chair in 2002 and 2006. In the Senate, he served as Senate Chair of the Administrative Services and Capital Facilities Appropriations Subcommittee and Vice Chair of the Executive Appropriations Committee. He served eight years in state government including four years as Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce (1989-1992) and as a member of the staff of Governor Norman H. Bangerter (1984-89). He was also an executive in private business with a national testing firm for eight years (1992-2000).

A native of Salt Lake City, Buhler received Bachelor of Science degrees in Political Science and History from the University of Utah, a Master of Public Administration degree from Brigham Young University, and a PhD in Political Science at the University of Utah. He is married to the former Lori Goaslind; they are the parents of five children and grandparents of four.