Institution Submitting Request: Utah Valley University
Proposed Title: Center for Professional and Continuing Education
Program or Unit Title being proposed: NA
School or Division or Location: Academic Affairs
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Academic Outreach
Name of Department/Area Location: Academic Outreach
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP): NA
Proposed Beginning Date: 07/01/2015
Institutional Board of Trustees’ Approval Date: MM/DD/YEAR
Proposal Type (check all that apply):

Regents’ Agenda Items

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Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:
I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

______________________________________________ Date: MM/DD/YEAR
Signature

______________________________________________
Printed Name:
New Center Request—Abbreviated Template
Utah Valley University
The Center for Professional and Continuing Education
05/01/2015

Section I: Request
Utah Valley University proposes that the Community and Continuing Education department be renamed and restructured as the new Center for Professional and Continuing Education to meet and facilitate the professional, workforce, and community needs of our region. This request is mainly a name change as the Academic Outreach unit is trying to better position UVU to serve the needs of the community through professional development and workforce-related programs.

Section II: Need
Utah Valley University’s (UVU) mission statement reads: “Utah Valley University is a teaching institution which provides opportunity, promotes student success, and meets regional educational needs. UVU builds on a foundation of substantive scholarly and creative work to foster engaged learning. The university prepares professionally competent people of integrity who, as lifelong learners and leaders, serve as stewards of a globally interdependent community” (bold added).

The mission’s phrase: “meets regional educational needs” specifically focuses on providing programming to meet the region’s educational needs, whatever those might be, including credit and non-credit programming. Additionally, the last line creates a sense of the larger view of the regional needs: “The university prepares professionally competent people of integrity who, as lifelong learners and leaders, serve as stewards of a globally interdependent community.” Preparing “professional competent people” suggests more than preparing regular, full-time or even part-time students who attend credit courses. Rather, it posits that we prepare all to become “professionally competent” as “lifelong learners and leaders,” all of which denotes that education extends beyond earning just a degree.

In August 2011, UVU produced a white paper titled “Our Unique Educational Mission.” One of the sections declares: “…alongside these energetic university ambitions there is a remarkable commitment to maintaining the university’s historic role of serving as a low cost, open admissions provider of associate degrees, career and technical education, and non-credit job training programs” (bold added).

Also, in 2011, President Matthew Holland launched a Business Engagement Strategy
after having discussions with key local and regional business, community, and educational leaders. In his letter dated 2013 as part of the UVU Business Engagement Strategy: Career Pathways Report, President Holland adamantly proclaimed:

“This strategy is a key part of UVU’s overall goal to ‘develop a well-trained workforce and other factors critical to regional prosperity’. This goal is not just about numbers and degrees. It is about aligning education to meet current and future workforce needs, increasing the level of economic innovation in our regional and state through active and successful partnerships among business, industry, education, and community leaders.”

In recent sector conversations with regional health care providers, STEM (science, Technology, engineering, and mathematics)-related industries, Heber City Chamber of Commerce, City of Saratoga Springs, and some hospitality industries in the Park City area (all in April 2015), it was clear that the need for professional development and workforce education was key to the economic success of those entities. For example, in the health care conversations, health care providers discussed challenges with employees possessing the appropriate soft and leadership skills. Additionally, they expressed the need to enhance the skills of their nurses in the areas of behavioral health therapy, substance abuse, chronic illnesses, etc. Moreover, they wished their employees possessed stronger skills in research and statistical theory, community skills, and management training—all professional development and workforce education training.

While UVU will continue its mission to deliver credit academic programming via certificates, associate, baccalaureate, and graduate programming, an additional educational need arises to develop and provide professional development and workforce education in partnerships with business and industry and University entities. For example, UVU provides a non-credit “software testing program” as a component of a career pathway in Computer Science in partnership with a variety of technology companies to enhance the skills of current and future employees.

Thus, the mission of UVU is to prepare learners from a variety of disciplines across the entire region. A major component of UVU’s mission hinges on delivering professional development and workforce education throughout its service area. Utah Valley University can align and enhance its educational programs to meet current and future workforce needs through the Center for Professional and Continuing Education. The renaming of Community and Continuing Education to the Center for Professional and Continuing Education will give additional visibility to UVU’s efforts to provide these important services.

Part of Academic Outreach, under which the current Community and Continuing Education Department resides and under which the Center for Professional and Continuing Education will reside, is to form and strengthen university relationships with external university partners in order to meet regional workforce needs; respond to
community interests; explore institutional and workforce partnerships for non-credit, credit, stackable degree options; and develop, provide, and or facilitate other strategies that support student access, completion, and achievement of statewide goals for a well-trained workforce. A Center for Professional and Continuing Education will allow UVU to more effectively facilitate all professional development and workforce education.

**Section III: Institutional Impact**

The new Center for Professional and Continuing Education would facilitate all professional development, conferences, workshops, workforce programming, and community education in partnerships with University entities, business, industry, education, government, and other regional entities. The overall effects would be a more concentrated effort by UVU to expand and enhance its mission to meet regional educational programming through a Center for Professional and Continuing Education.

Additionally, the Center for Professional and Continuing Education would partner with internal campus entities to explore institutional and workforce partnerships for non-credit professional development opportunities as well as potential credit and stackable degree options to meet the needs of Utah’s workforce.

The overall impact of the Center for Professional and Continuing Education hinges on its ability to collaborate with the University community, K-16 Alliance, business, industry, government, and other community entities in facilitating the development of relevant career and college pathways that support workforce and economic development and inspire a culture of lifelong learning. The current organization is being restructured to create two positions from one and one half positions to specifically focus on professional development and workforce education. Aside from these two positions, the Center will stay intact with just minor changes to the staff or resources that are already allocated.

**Section IV: Finances**

Currently, the Community and Continuing Educational division is funded through both hard and soft funding. Revenue is generated through workshops, courses, and other workforce-related programming; workforce-related grants such as the Short-term Intensive Training (STIT) funding available at UVU; and from grants and contracts with the State of Utah and Department of Workforce Services. The Center for Professional and Continuing Education would generate revenues through the development of additional professional development and workforce education programming. No additional expense will be incurred by this change of name.