Whereas, sexual assault has devastating impacts on the health and safety of everyone in our campus community: victims and survivors, as well as family members, loved ones, friends, classmates, roommates, neighbors, or co-workers of victims and survivors;

Whereas, research estimates that one in three Utah women and one in 50 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime, and the vast majority of those (88 percent) are not reported to law enforcement (Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice’s 2007 study “Rape in Utah”);

Whereas, a recent USU student survey showed 10 percent of females and 2 percent of males said they were sexually assaulted since becoming a USU student (2017 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Misconduct), and 23 percent of female USU students recently reported they had experienced sexual assault before coming to USU;

Whereas, USU’s student survey showed 38 percent of sexual assault victims told no one about their experience, and less than 10 percent reported it to police, citing concerns about privacy, shame, the seriousness of their experience, being blamed by others, and the fear of not being believed;

Whereas, USU offers numerous resources to victims and survivors to help them heal and accommodate their specific needs so they can continue their college studies;

Whereas, when victims of sexual assault are believed and supported, they are more likely to report their experience to authorities, improving society’s ability to hold perpetrators accountable, and they are more likely to utilize support services and resources and heal more completely;

Now therefore, I, Noelle E. Cockett, president of Utah State University, do hereby proclaim in concert with the USU Division of Student Affairs, the Department of Public Safety, the Sexual Assault and Anti-Violence Information Office, and the USU Title IX Office our shared support of the “Start by Believing” public awareness campaign.

Signed and attested to this 23 day of March 2018.

Noelle E. Cockett, President
Utah State University

Michael Kuehn, Executive Director
Department of Public Safety

Jenny Erazo, Director
Sexual Assault and Anti-Violence Information Office

Stacy Sturgeon, Title IX Coordinator