

# HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, October 2011

## UtahFutures celebrates milestone 2nd birthday

September 2011 saw over 4 million hits on Utah's "one stop shop" Website for education and career planning

UtahFutures.org, Utah's education and career planning website, turns two in October with a birthday that deserves a major celebration. Last month, over 4 million people visited this "one stop shop" to view training, education and career information online. That's a 1,607% increase in the number of hits over this time last year!

Any Utah resident can explore UtahFutures and access information about Utah jobs, training and education options, career interest surveys and more. This means anybody can setup their own education and career planning portfolios, though Utah high school students constitute the majority of the 402,665 users who have set up portfolios.

High school students use UtahFutures to complete their Student Education and Occupational Plans, take career interest surveys, assess their skills, learn about occupations and build portfolios that they can carry throughout their careers. Financial aid and scholarship information is also available.

In 2011, the legislature appropriated \$550,000 in one-time funds for this project. In May, Governor Herbert created the UtahFutures Steering Committee to oversee the future development of the website and related services. Partners include the Utah State Office of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation and Adult Education, the Utah State Board of Regents, Department of Workforce Services, Higher Education Assistance Authority and Gear Up, a program for disadvantaged high school students. The Utah State Library recently joined the partnership, and the Utah Department of Corrections is preparing to launch a pilot project.

Now *that's* a two-year-old who doesn't have the "terrible twos!"



**UtahFutures.org**  
Career Information System

## September 2011 Statistics

Total hits: 4,054,535 (1,607% over 2010)

Total portfolio users: 402,665

Average session time: 19 minutes

Top highest traffic pages:

Career Cluster Inventory

Reality Check

Education and Career Planning

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## Regents' Scholarship: Helping prepare Utah's students academically and financially for higher education

The Regents' Scholarship was created by the Utah Legislature in 2008 (sponsored by Senator Lyle Hilliard) to encourage the state's high school students to prepare for college by taking a core course of study during grades 9-12 and saving for school with a 529 through the Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP).

### Thanks, Regents

**"Physics, Chemistry and Calculus are all classes I wouldn't have even stepped into if it hadn't been for the Regents' Scholarship and the requirements associated with it. The Regents' Scholarship pushes students like me to take classes and challenge the intellect..."**

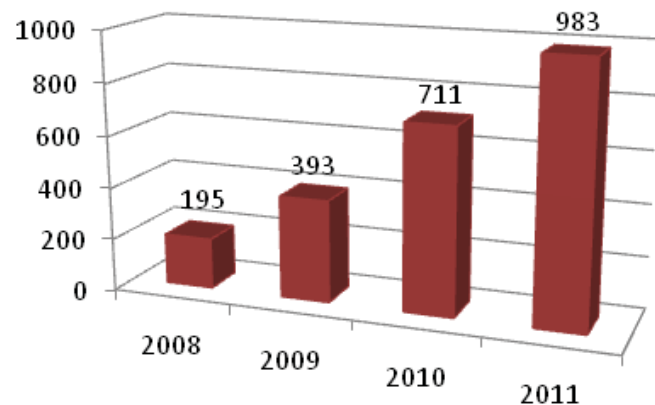
**Hayley Newell, Alpine, UT**  
Deseret News, 02/27/2011

**Base Award:** One-time payment of \$1,000 for students who complete a core course of study, meet a minimum GPA, minimum grades on specific courses and ACT requirements.

**Exemplary Achievement Award:** Maximum of \$1250 per semester, renewable for up to 65 credits or four semesters for students having no grade lower than a "B" in required classes, at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA and a composite ACT score of 26.

**UESP Supplemental Award:** Students who earn the Base Award and have contributed to a UESP account during ages 14-17 get a maximum of \$100 per year for each \$100 contributed to their account.

**History of Utah Students Awarded Regents' Scholarships**



For more information on Regents' Scholarships, visit [higheredutah.org/scholarship\\_info/regents-scholarship/](http://higheredutah.org/scholarship_info/regents-scholarship/)

## StepUP to your dreams, StepUP to higher education in Utah



On September 26, 2011 a new campaign, StepUP Utah, was launched to help students and their families realize that higher education is an option, even for those who have traditionally not attended college. Paid for by a grant from the US Department of Education, StepUP Utah helps students dream big, achieve dreams and advises encouragement from educators, parents and families in earning an education.

StepUP Utah shows Utah's youth that if they can dream it, there are possibilities from one-year certificates to four-year degrees. In addition to TV and radio spots, key information and resources can be found on the new website, [StepUpUtah.com](http://StepUpUtah.com).

[higheredutah.org](http://higheredutah.org) | "Like" us on Facebook, "Follow" us on Twitter at [higheredutah](http://higheredutah)

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