

HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, March 2012

Higher Ed appreciative of hard work in 2012 session, thanks legislators

Support for top higher education priorities of Compensation and Mission Based Funding recognized by legislators during the session

As the 2012 Legislative Session closed, Utah Commissioner of Higher Education Bill Sederburg expressed appreciation to the Utah Legislature for the priority given to higher education this year.

Commissioner Sederburg said, “We are pleased the legislature took into account our priorities for the year, and are also encouraged that, for the first time since 2008, base funding increased. This will help us continue to serve Utah’s growing college-going population.”

Higher education officials also expressed appreciation for the legislature’s support of Utah’s higher education faculty and staff by approving a compensation increase equal to that of other state employees.

According to Sederburg, Higher Ed’s top priority heading into the session was employee compensation in order to retain and recruit top talent to Utah’s colleges and universities. He adds, “We thank legislators for recognizing our priorities and needs.” New funding this year totals \$21.3 million, or approximately a 3.2% ongoing increase.

Thank you for recognizing the priorities and needs of higher education in Utah!

New Higher Ed Funding Approved:

- 1% compensation increase
- \$8 million for Mission Based Funding (split evenly between initiatives and equity)
- \$1 million for Regents’ Scholarship growth
- \$2.5 million for the Engineering Initiative
- \$500,000 for creation of a college readiness assessment tool*
- \$750,000 for Success Stipends (need-based financial aid)*
- \$950,000 for the Higher Education Technology Initiative (HETI)*
- \$1 million for Technology Intensive Concurrent Enrollment*
- \$500,000 for UtahFutures.org*
- \$6 million for USTAR **

and institution-specific items including:

- \$22 million for replacement of University of Utah infrastructure
- \$2,175,000 for design of new classroom at Utah Valley University
- Increased funding for capital improvements
- \$1 million for USU regional campuses
- \$250,000 to assist Dixie State College track students per a 2011 legislative audit
- \$200,000 for a crime lab at Dixie State College*
- \$500,000 for Utah Shakespearean Festival*

*Indicates one-time funding

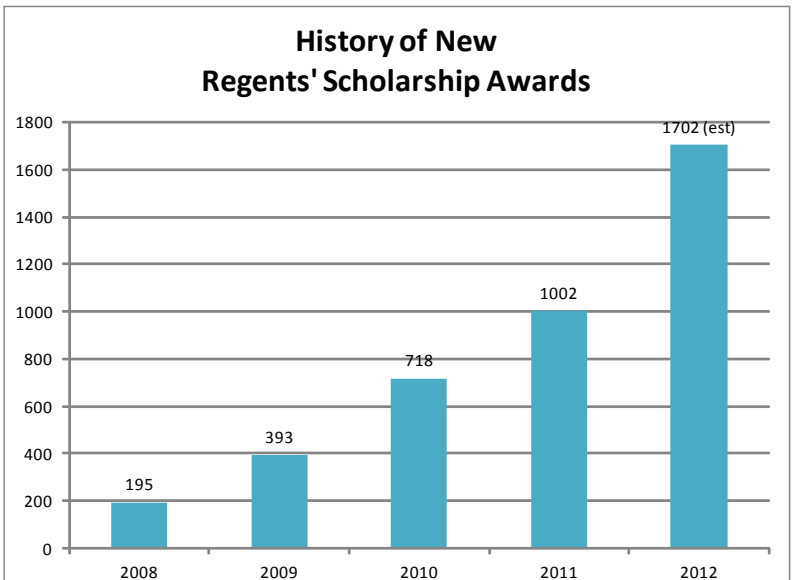
**Indicates half in one-time funding

Continued Regents' Scholarship funding keeps students college ready

The Regents' Scholarship, sponsored in 2008 by Sen. Lyle Hillyard, was created by the Utah Legislature to encourage Utah high school students to prepare for college academically and financially by taking a core course of study during grades 9-12 and saving for college.

2012 is the fifth year for the scholarship, and students have had the ability to plan and prepare to meet requirements. It is estimated awards will increase a total of 50- to 60-percent over last year.

The legislature's appropriation of \$1 million for Regents' Scholarship growth funds a \$1,000 one-time Base Award and \$900 per semester Exemplary Award for school year 2012-13. By comparison had the legislature not provided a \$1 million increase, a Regents' Scholarship Exemplary Award would have only been \$460 per semester. Thanks!



2012 Legislative Lunch... Thank you for participating!



Each year, Rocky Mountain Power sponsors a higher ed luncheon as an event where legislators can sit down with Presidents, Regents, Trustees and higher ed officials for an informal dialogue about higher education in Utah. Always extremely well-attended this year was no exception, and many expressed how much they enjoyed sitting down to have open discussion about higher education issues.

“First among equals is Utah, the nation’s finest 529”

—Clark Howard, March 2, 2012

Nationally syndicated radio personality and consumer advocate Clark Howard placed the Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) at the top of his annual 529 Plan Guide for 2012.



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