

HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, September 2012

Update on Mission-Based Performance Funding

Institutions using legislative investment to meet participation, completion & economic development goals.

In 2011, the Utah Legislature enacted S.B. 97, Mission Based Funding, sponsored by Senator Steven Urquhart. During the 2012 session, the first ongoing funding of \$8 million was appropriated. This money is to be split evenly between distinctive mission initiatives and equity.

The funds for Distinctive Mission are being utilized for specific projects proposed by each USHE institution, and are linked to goals of participation, completion, and economic development. In August, USHE provided an update to the Higher Education Appropriations Interim Committee on how these funds are being used. Below is a summary of some of the initiatives.



PARTICIPATION

Utah State University-STEM Initiative

Efforts to diversify the cohort of students pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering & math) degrees.

Weber State University-Distance Delivery Courses

WSU Online is expanding its array of courses and programs to better serve student demand for flexibility.

Weber State University-Nursing Partnerships

Weber is providing the final year of instruction in a 1+1 program at three Applied Technical Colleges, allowing students to progress from LPN to RN licensing status.

Snow College-Natural Resource Technicians

Snow has identified the need for technically-prepared, field-educated professionals in agriculture and natural resources in rural Utah. Snow is creating a workforce-ready career pathway for students.



COMPLETION

University of Utah-Early, Proactive Intervention

The U has hired retention specialists to proactively contact new students and sophomores to help them overcome impediments to staying in college during their first two years.

Southern Utah University-Enhanced Retention

SUU has created an "Early Alert" peer mentor program to quickly identify and assist underperforming first-year students.

Dixie State College-Student Services DegreeWorks

DegreeWorks is a degree audit solution using web tools to guide students through degree requirements. DSC can better define general education, major, emphasis, minor, and certificate requirements.

Utah Valley University-Structured Enrollment

Beginning Fall 2012, UVU implemented enrollment standards for entering students. While UVU continues to be an open-admission institution, students who do not meet enrollment standards are guided through a path to graduation tailored to their individual levels of academic preparation.

Salt Lake Community College-Student Success

SLCC is implementing DegreeWorks to support efforts to refine academic advising practices to emphasize career plans and tracking of student progress.

Mission-Based Funding Update continued...

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

University of Utah-Post Award Management

Investment in software to reduce the time spent by faculty on administrative tasks related to research projects.

Utah State University-Clean Coke Technology

USU Eastern is creating public/private partnerships to research, develop, & test clean coke technologies in the Price/Helper region.

Southern Utah University-Community Internships

SUU recently implemented an experiential education requirement and increasing local internships will facilitate student completion & may open an employment pipeline.

Snow College-Placement Center

Serving both the Richfield and Ephraim campuses, the center helps students find internship placements and search for employment in careers in their fields of study.

Utah Valley University-Entrepreneurship Program

UVU has opened a one-stop Business Resource Center for Utah County. The BRC hosts local economic development agencies alongside UVU entrepreneurship and commercialization resources. This partnership provides students and community members with increased opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skill and small business incubation.

EQUITY

Each institution also received funds for equity in order to address funding gaps that have developed during periods of decreased appropriations. These dollars are being used in a variety of ways, including increasing the availability of student services due to rapid growth and increased enrollment, adding faculty positions in growing degree areas, increasing course offerings to meet student demand, and addressing ADA accommodations to improve student access.

A complete summary of all of the initiatives that were funded can be found on our website at higher-edutah.org under the Finance & Facilities tab.



UHEAA Tours the State

Fall Financial Aid Nights help students understand how to pay for college.

Come to your school's...
FALL FINANCIAL AID NIGHT



The Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority, an agency of the Board of Regents, began visiting high schools around the state in late August. These Fall Financial Aid Nights provide students and their families with the information they need to save for college and apply for scholarships and grants. The presentations emphasize the importance of completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and explain the difference between loans, grants, and other financial aid options. UHEAA is also awarding four \$250 scholarships to students who enter the "Super Short Scholarship Essay Contest." UHEAA is visiting 19 high schools spread across every region of the state between August 27th and October 24th. A complete schedule of events is available on UHEAA's Facebook page at facebook.com/uheaa

UHEAA has also recently produced six new Financial Aid 101 videos, which are available online at blog.uheaa.org. The videos cover the six major ways students can pay for college and offer help in navigating the complex maze of financial aid options. The videos cover savings, scholarships, FAFSA, grants, work-study, and loans.