

HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, September 2013

USHE Initiatives Encourage Students to Prepare for College Programs Focus on Academic & Financial Preparation

Utah Scholars Initiative: Making a Difference

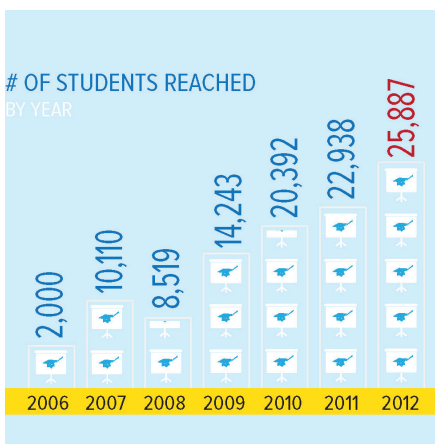
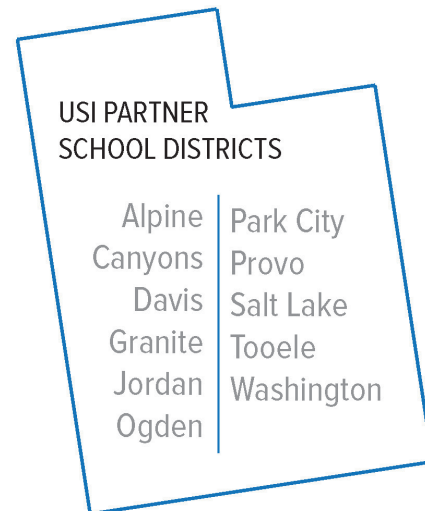


USI is designed to motivate students to complete a defined curriculum in high school to better prepare for college and future employment. Utah Scholars also provides communities and businesses

opportunities to interact with local schools in meaningful ways.

In 2008, when the Regents' Scholarship was created, the Utah Scholars Curriculum was used as the course requirements to qualify for the scholarship. Many of the current Utah Scholars will qualify for this sister program. In fact, 57% of all applicants for Regents' Scholarship were Utah Scholars in 2013. There were 1,725 graduates from Utah Scholars this year, many of them meeting all of the qualifications for the Regents' Scholarship to help them pay for their education. This past year, USI saw 167% enrollment growth throughout the state. 6,310 students registered to participate in the Utah Scholars Curriculum this year. These students will participate throughout their high school careers to be more equipped and prepared for their secondary education.

Utah Scholars has partnered with 12 school districts across the state to provide eighth graders in 121 junior high and middle schools with information on why attending college is important and how they can become Utah Scholars. Each year USI adds districts and schools to its list of partners, with the goal that every incoming high school freshman in the state has the opportunity to participate in this program.



Utah Scholars couldn't succeed without its dedicated corps of volunteers. They are in classrooms everyday, talking to students and teachers, making this program come to life. Thanks to USI's incredible corporate partners, who allow their employees to volunteer for Utah Scholars; 134 volunteers from 30 organizations gave 762 presentations in classrooms across Utah, reaching 25,887 students in the 2012-2013 academic year.

For more information, please visit
utahscholars.org

Utah Educational Savings Plan Expands Investment Choices, Lowers Costs

Individuals saving for college with the Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP), Utah's official nonprofit 529 college savings program, now have more choices in designing a college savings strategy to meet their needs, and at lower costs. The following program changes took effect June 21, 2013:

Fees Reduced

UESP reduced its already low annual Administrative Asset Fee on all four age-based and five of the six static investment options by an average of 10 percent. As always, this fee is waived for all accounts invested in the Public Treasurers' Investment Fund owned by Utah residents.

Additional Funds Introduced in the Customized Investment Options

Six mutual funds managed by Dimensional Fund Advisors, a global asset-management firm offering unique investment strategies, and six additional Vanguard funds were added as underlying investments in UESP's customized investment options. The customized investment options allow an account owner to design their own allocation from available underlying investments.

New Investment Options Opened

Two new static investment options composed of Vanguard underlying funds that balance domestic and international equity with fixed income are now available:

- 70% Equity/30% Fixed Income
- 20% Equity/80% Fixed Income

For more information, visit uesp.org or call 800.418.2551



UESP is celebrating College Savings Month this September by inviting Utah students in kindergarten through 12th grade to design a bookmark. The eight winners of the 2013 "Make Your Mark" bookmark

contest will each receive a \$1,000 UESP college savings scholarship account provided by Zions Bank. Visit uesp.org/bookmark for details and official contest rules and to download a copy of the official entry form. Entries must be received at the UESP office by 5:00 p.m., Monday, September 30, 2013.

Learn How to Pay for College at UHEEA Fall Financial Aid Nights

The Regional Financial Aid Nights are a chance for students and parents to learn about different ways to pay for college and talk to financial aid experts from UHEEA, the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority. They also have an opportunity to talk with representatives from Utah's colleges and universities in a college fair immediately following the financial aid presentation.



Fall Financial Aid Night Schedule

- 10.3.13 Provo High
- 10.9.13 East High, SLC
- 10.22.13 West Jordan High
- 10.23.13 Kearns High
- 10.29.13 Tooele Learning Center
- 10.30.13 Hunter High, SLC
- 11.6.13 Wayne High, Bicknell
- 11.13.13 Monument Valley High,
- 11.14.13 Kanab High
- 11.18.13 Brighton High, SLC
- 11.20.13 Woods Cross High
- 11.21.13 Bryce Valley High, Tropic
- 11.21.13 Escalante High
- 11.21.13 Panquitch High
- 12.3.13 American Fork High
- 11.5.13 Juab High, Nephi
- 11.11.13 Hillcrest High, Midvale
- 11.12.13 Mountain View High, Orem

For the full schedule and details, visit facebook.com/uheea