

HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, November 2013

Higher Ed & Public Ed Partner for Utah College Application Week Pilot Project Seeks to Get More Students Applying to College Earlier in their Senior Year

The Utah System of Higher Education is working to increase the number of high school seniors who apply to college. As part of that effort, USHE launched a pilot project earlier this month in partnership with the Ogden, Granite, and Salt Lake school districts. Utah College Application Week took place between November 11 and 15 at eight high schools this year, with the intention of expanding it to more schools across the state in the future. The initiative particularly focuses on first-generation and low-income students, who are less likely to apply to and enroll in college. The goal of Utah College Application Week is to provide every high school senior at partner schools the opportunity to complete at least one college or university application.

“There is nothing more important students can do for their futures than graduate from high school and go on to graduate from college,” says David Buhler, Commissioner of Higher Education. “We want students in Utah to know there are an array of higher education options, from certificates to bachelor’s degrees, and offer them the information they need to get through the college application process.”

When surveyed, more than 90 percent of middle school students say they plan to go to college, yet only 54 percent of Utah’s high school graduates enroll in



Assistant Commissioner Melissa Miller Kincart helps a Cottonwood High School student complete her college application.

Photo credit: Scott G. Winterton, Deseret News

postsecondary education immediately after they complete high school. That rate drops to 41 percent for low-income students and those from underrepresented ethnic minorities. Because a postsecondary degree or certificate is the best way to increase economic opportunity in today’s economy, educational achievement is particularly important for these students.

“Our schools were thrilled to be part of this effort,” said Judy Petersen, Director of College and Career Readiness for Granite School District, which had three of its high schools participating. “The teachers and administrators in these schools are creating a college-going culture to help students realize that attending college is the next step after high school.”

The Utah College Application Week pilot project is part of the American College Application Campaign, a national initiative of the American Council on Education. This year’s pilot has provided an opportunity to work out the implementation details before it is scaled up across the state in coming years. More information is available at stepuputah.com/college-application-week or at the American Council on Education website: acenet.edu.



Two Kearns High School seniors wear their “I applied” stickers after completing their college applications.

Board of Regents Capital Development Priorities

Prioritization of capital facilities requests is a core Board of Regents responsibility, which helps allow USHE institutions respond to the changing educational needs of their students by investing in new buildings on their campuses. Modern facilities provide much-needed capacity and enhanced learning environments for Utah’s college and university students. The Board of Regents has provided the following prioritized list to DFCM and the State Building Board, the Governor’s Office, and the Legislature for funding consideration.

Priority Rank	Project	State Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding
1	WSU New Science Lab Building (STEM)	\$57,400,000	\$13,700,000	\$71,100,000
2	Snow New Science Building (STEM)	\$18,369,778		\$18,369,778
3	UU Crocker Science Center/Thomas Bldg. Remodel & Expansion (STEM)	\$34,000,000	\$21,000,000	\$55,000,000
4	USU Statewide Instructional Initiatives (Eastern & Brigham City)	\$26,500,000	\$8,000,000	\$34,500,000
5	SLCC Career & Technical Education	\$30,307,053		\$30,307,053
6	DSU Physical Education/Health & Wellness	\$13,500,000	\$13,500,000	\$27,000,000
7	SUU New Business Building	\$14,266,519	\$1,000,000	\$15,266,519
8	UVU Performing Arts Building	\$29,573,367		\$29,573,367

Bioteau Selected to Lead Florida State College at Jacksonville

Salt Lake Community College president Cynthia Bioteau has been named the next president of Florida State College at Jacksonville. Her tenure is to begin January 1, 2014.



“We are grateful for the nine years of service President Bioteau has given to Salt Lake Community College and the Utah System of Higher Education,” said Board of Regents Chair Bonnie Jean Beesley. “She led the college through a period of significant growth and helped position it as a hub for the intersection of education and workforce training in Utah. We wish President Bioteau great success as she embarks on this new endeavor.”

Dr. Bioteau has overseen the expansion of the schools’s services for veterans and created new economic development partnerships, including the 10,000 Small Businesses Program. This collaboration with Goldman Sachs provides \$15 million in loans and mentoring to Utah businesses.

Regents Appoint Huftalin Interim President of SLCC

At its meeting held on November 15, the State Board of Regents appointed Dr. Deneece G. Huftalin as the Interim President of Salt Lake Community College. The Board of Regents is launching a thorough presidential search this month. Dr. Huftalin, who has worked at Salt Lake Community College for more than two decades, will serve until a new president of SLCC is selected.



“The Board and the SLCC community are fortunate Dr. Huftalin is willing to step into the role of interim president,” said Board of Regents Chair, Bonnie Jean Beesley. “Dr. Huftalin’s years of service to Salt Lake Community College, along with her administrative capabilities and commitment to students will provide a steady hand during the transition on campus that inevitably occurs during a college presidential search.”

Dr. Huftalin is currently the Vice President for Student Services at Salt Lake Community College. Huftalin joined SLCC in 1992 as the Director of Academic and Career Advising and was named Dean of Students in 1994. She became Vice President of Student Services in 2004.