

HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, January 2014

Regents' Subgrants Increase College Participation & Access

In order to achieve the state's 66% goal, we must broaden college participation and completion among those students who have not historically attended college. The Outreach and Access team in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education is focused on this effort and is the recipient of the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) from the US Department of Education. The goal of CACG is to help low-income students and families learn about, prepare for and finance post-secondary education. The Commissioner's Office created a subgrant program to establish or expand access and outreach initiatives at Utah's non-profit colleges and universities. For the 2012-13 academic year 11 CACG subgrants were awarded to support partnerships that significantly increase the number of low-income and underrepresented students who are prepared to enter and complete college. The following are profiles of two of this year's subgrant recipients and their accomplishments.

Increasing Participation & Completion of Post-Secondary Training in a Remote & Underserved Population **Utah State University Eastern**



This program is administered by staff members at USU Eastern's Blanding campus and seeks to increase participation in higher education by students in remote areas of Southeastern Utah. The objectives of the program include helping students increase their financial literacy and their access to financial aid. The program provides career guidance services, academic tutoring, and offers a college preparation summer program so students begin their higher education ready to succeed. More than 1500 students have received services, including nearly 1300 high school, middle school, and non-traditional students. 23 students attended the summer bridge program and saw improvement in their English or math placement scores. The subgrant has allowed USU Eastern to develop new tutoring services at distance education sites and expand its overall tutoring capacity. New workshops in college and career readiness have been developed with subgrant funds. USU Eastern, Blanding Campus has seen an 11% increase in enrollment. Nearly 80% of the students are first generation college attending and from low-income families, 60% of the students are women

and 65% are Native American. This program has been very successful in increasing college participation among those members of the community to help them have the economic and social benefits of a higher education.



REFUGES: Refugees Exploring the Foundation of Undergraduate Excellence in Science **University of Utah**

The REFUGES program was developed to increase the representation of women, minorities, and economically disadvantaged students in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines. The program works to increase the academic and financial preparation of these students so they can enter and succeed in college. The program also provides a comprehensive support system for at-risk youth to successfully navigate the challenges of high school and the transition to college. The key program activities to achieve these goals include a summer science bridge course, which provides an orientation for students entering their freshman year. Students live on campus and enroll in a science foundation course, which can be applied to General Education requirements. During the following spring semester, REFUGES students are placed in a paid research lab position for immediate exposure to scientific research. The program also provides tutoring and mentoring by graduate students from the University of Utah in high school afterschool programs and offers workshops that highlight research and career opportunities in the STEM disciplines. The program served 91 students in 2012-13. 100% of the students who participated in the Summer Science Bridge program matriculated at an institution of higher education and 67% are studying science or math. The subgrant has allowed this program to create a continuous pipeline from middle school to college for students who might not otherwise continue on the path to higher education.



Update on USHE Presidential Searches

The State Board of Regents will be conducting three presidential searches over the next year, at Salt Lake Community College, Dixie State University, and Snow College. Presidential searches are the most important responsibility of the Board of Regents, in consultation with the institutions' Boards of Trustees. The search for a new president within USHE can take up to 12 months to complete in order to involve the broadest range of stakeholders and identify the most qualified candidates.



Dr. Cynthia Bioteau announced her resignation as President of Salt Lake Community College in October 2013 upon accepting the office of President of Florida State College at Jacksonville. The Board of Regents named Dr. Denece Huftalin as interim president in November and she took office in January 2014. In December, the Regents named a search committee of 21 members representing the Regents, SLCC Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni, as well as representatives from the larger community. The search committee is chaired by Regent France Davis and co-chaired by Trustee Gail Miller.



President Stephen Nadauld announced his retirement from Dixie State University in October 2013. However, he will remain in office until the search process is complete, preventing the need for an Interim President. In December the Regents named a 22-member search committee comprised of Regents, DSU Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni, as well as community members from throughout the region served by Dixie State. The DSU search committee is chaired by Regent Wilford Clyde, with DSU Trustee Chair Steve Caplin serving as Vice Chair.

From here the search processes for both Salt Lake Community College and Dixie State University will proceed in similar fashion. Specific dates are not attached to search process milestones, allowing the search to be conducted in a thorough manner which takes the needs and concerns of the local communities into consideration. The next steps for each search committee are as follows:

- Convene public constituent meetings
- Approve a position description
- Call for nominations and applications
- Screen candidate applications and conduct interviews
- Deliberate on the applicants and forward a list of recommended finalists to the Board of Regents
- Regents will publicly announce the finalists
- Finalists will meet with campus constituent representatives
- Regents interview, select, and announce the new president

President Scott Wyatt was selected in November as the 16th president of Southern Utah University. The search for a new president of Snow College will commence once the searches for SLCC and DSU are complete. Dr. Gary L. Carlston has been appointed Interim President of Snow College, taking office in early January 2014, and will serve in that position for a year or more. Updates on all of the USHE presidential searches are published as they become available on higheredutah.org/presidentialsearches as well as on the presidential search websites of the individual institutions.



For all the facts about higher ed in Utah, check out the 2014 Data Book.
Available now on our website.
higheredutah.org/databooks