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Higher Education Hosting Regional College Open House Nights

Part of a Statewide Effort to Make Higher Education More Accessible to Utah Families

SALT LAKE CITY – *StepUP to Higher Education*, a program of the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE), is hosting four regional college open houses March 19-27, 2014, for high school students in grades nine through eleven and their families.

“With a bit of planning, higher education is possible for everyone,” said David Buhler, Commissioner of Higher Education. “These open houses will help to inform Utah students about the many options for high-quality, affordable education that are available in this state.”

During the open house, representatives from Utah’s colleges and universities will be available to answer questions about the state’s many higher education options. Experts in financial aid will also be available to help students learn more about saving and paying for college. The Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) and the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA)—both of which help to guide Utahns through the higher education financial planning process—will address financial aid and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Those interested can register for these free events at www.StepUpUtah.com.

Melissa Miller Kincart, Assistant Commissioner of Outreach and Access, said, “These events will help students and their families cut through many of the misconceptions related to preparing and paying for college. Last year StepUP hosted 930 participants throughout the four nights, and we hope to continue reaching more Utahns each year.”

StepUP Regional Open House Schedule		
Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, March 19	6:00–8:00pm	Utah Valley University, Sorenson Student Center
Thursday, March 20	6:00–8:00pm	Salt Lake Community College, Student Event Center
Tuesday, March 25	6:00–8:00pm	Weber State University, Shepherd Student Union
Thursday, March 27	6:00–8:00pm	Dixie State University, Gardner Student Center

StepUP Regional Open House Agenda	
Time	Activity
5:45pm	Registration and check-in begins
6:00–6:15pm	Welcome, StepUP presentation

6:30–6:50pm	Paying for College presentation
7:10–7:25pm	StepUP presentation
7:40–7:55pm	Paying for College presentation

StepUP to Higher Education is an awareness campaign designed to reach students who may have never considered higher education as a viable option. It is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the College Access Challenge Grant. Whether aiming for a one-year certificate or a four-year degree, StepUP provides tips, tools, resources and conversation starters on preparing and paying for college so that obtaining higher education can be a reality for all Utahns. For more information, visit StepUPUtah.com.

The Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) includes the Utah Educational Savings Plan, the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority, as well as all of Utah’s eight public colleges and universities: the University of Utah, Utah State University, Weber State University, Southern Utah University, Snow College, Dixie State University, Utah Valley University and Salt Lake Community College. For more information on USHE, visit higheredutah.org.

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