

# HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education

July 2014

## New Grant Partnership Program Introduced to Increase College Attainment

USHE recently announced the StepUP READY grants, which encourage direct partnerships between Utah's public colleges and universities and local school districts in an effort to prepare Utah high school students to graduate college-ready.



These grants were made possible by the hard work of Senator Urquhart and his colleagues in the 2014 Utah State Legislature, and their vision of making college more attainable to students throughout the state.

StepUP READY grants utilize these direct partnerships because collaboration between K-12 and higher education institutions has continually demonstrated positive outcomes. Goals for these grants include increasing the number of students who:

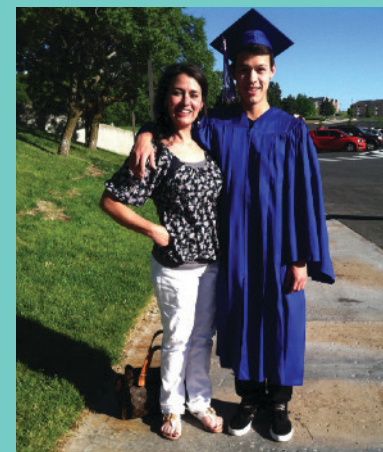
- Receive 8th grade college prep introduction
- Achieve ACT college readiness benchmarks
- Take Math 1050 and/or 4-years of math in high school
- Apply for Regents' Scholarship, focused on college prep during high school

USHE invites StepUP READY grant applications from partnerships between school districts/local education authorities and Utah not-for-profit higher education institutions. To learn more about the StepUP READY grants, visit [www.higheredutah.org/news/step-up-ready](http://www.higheredutah.org/news/step-up-ready).

## DID YOU KNOW...

...you can find the different types of financial aid available at USHE institutions, how many degrees were awarded in previous years, and much more information on USHE institutions through the annually-published data books on our website? Visit [www.higheredutah.org/databooks](http://www.higheredutah.org/databooks) for more details.

**College Application Week** provides every high school senior at partner schools the opportunity to complete at least one college or university application during the school day. A special focus is placed on first generation students, low-income students or students who may not have otherwise considered applying.



Thanks in part to his participation in the 2013 College Application Week, Isaac Chavez, a recent graduate of Ben Lomond High School, will be attending Weber State University in the fall. Isaac's mother, Faith, said that College Application Week helped her son persevere not only to graduate high school but also to apply and attend Weber State University:

**"I am forever grateful for the support he received at Ben Lomond. Without this program, he may have never gone to college!"**

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David Buhler, Commissioner of Higher Education  
Spencer Jenkins, Asst. Commissioner for Public Affairs

Melanie Heath, Director of Communications  
Maria Millett, Public Affairs Coordinator

UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
*Building a Stronger State of Minds*

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Two National Reports Highlight the Importance of Higher Education to the State's Economy

The [Federal Reserve Board of San Francisco](http://bit.ly/Ro3Q5T) recently released a report ([bit.ly/Ro3Q5T](http://bit.ly/Ro3Q5T)) that found the worth of a college degree amounted to \$830,000 more earned in a lifetime than those with only a high school diploma, and a return on investment at an average of 15% per year. These calculations were based on the costs of college and wages of graduates after completing a college degree. The study collected data on full-time employees aged 16-64 between 1970-2013.

Another national report, titled [A Well-Educated Workforce is Key to State Prosperity](http://bit.ly/Vw6F7j) ([bit.ly/Vw6F7j](http://bit.ly/Vw6F7j)), listed the following impacts of education on a state:

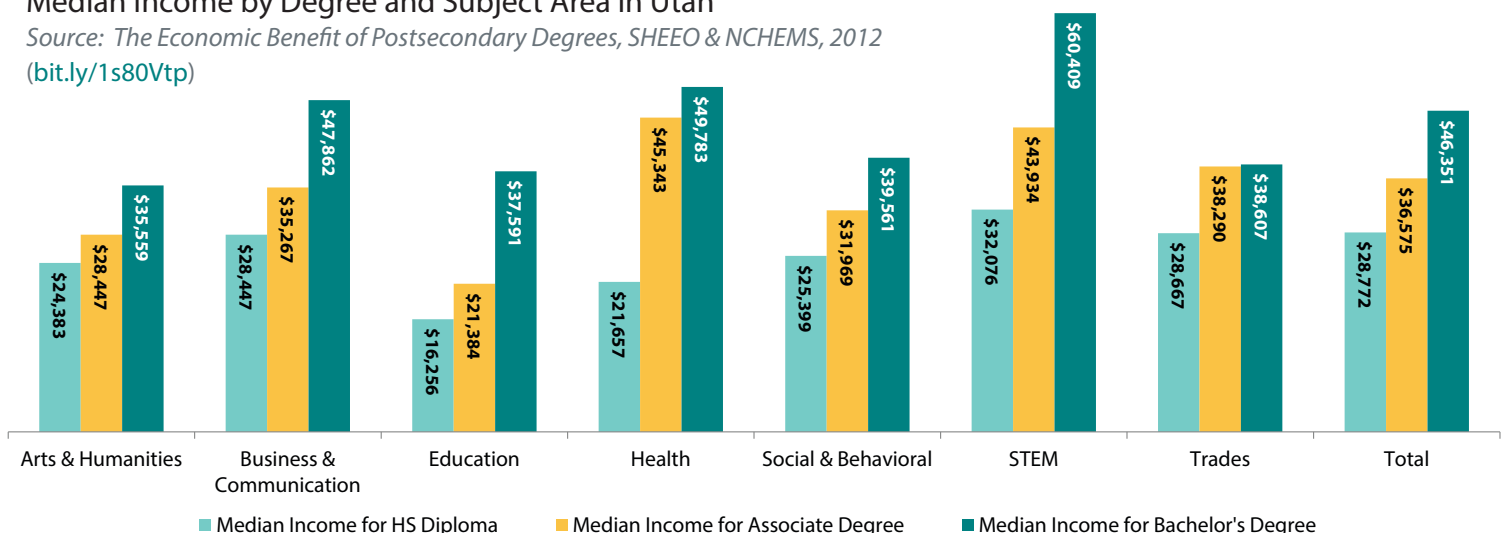
- Overwhelmingly, [high-wage states have a well-educated workforce](#). There is a clear and strong correlation between the educational attainment of a state's workforce and median wages.
- States can [build a strong foundation for economic success and shared prosperity by investing in education](#). Providing expanded access to high quality education will not only expand economic opportunity for residents, but also will likely do more to strengthen the overall economy than anything else a state government can do.
- States can increase the strength of their economies and [increase their ability to grow and attract high-wage employers by investing in education](#).
- Investing in education is also [good for state budgets in the long run](#), since workers with higher incomes contribute more through taxes over the course of their lifetimes.

These reports echo the findings of a similar report published by USHE in May 2014 ([Building Utah's Future Through Higher Education](http://bit.ly/1zBKPPj), [bit.ly/1zBKPPj](http://bit.ly/1zBKPPj)), which discusses the economic benefit of increasing the educational attainment of Utah's population.

### Holding a Degree in Any Subject Has a Significant Impact on Annual and Lifetime Wages

#### Median Income by Degree and Subject Area in Utah

Source: *The Economic Benefit of Postsecondary Degrees*, SHEEO & NCHEMS, 2012 ([bit.ly/1s80Vtp](http://bit.ly/1s80Vtp))



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