



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

GENERAL REPORT

June 2023

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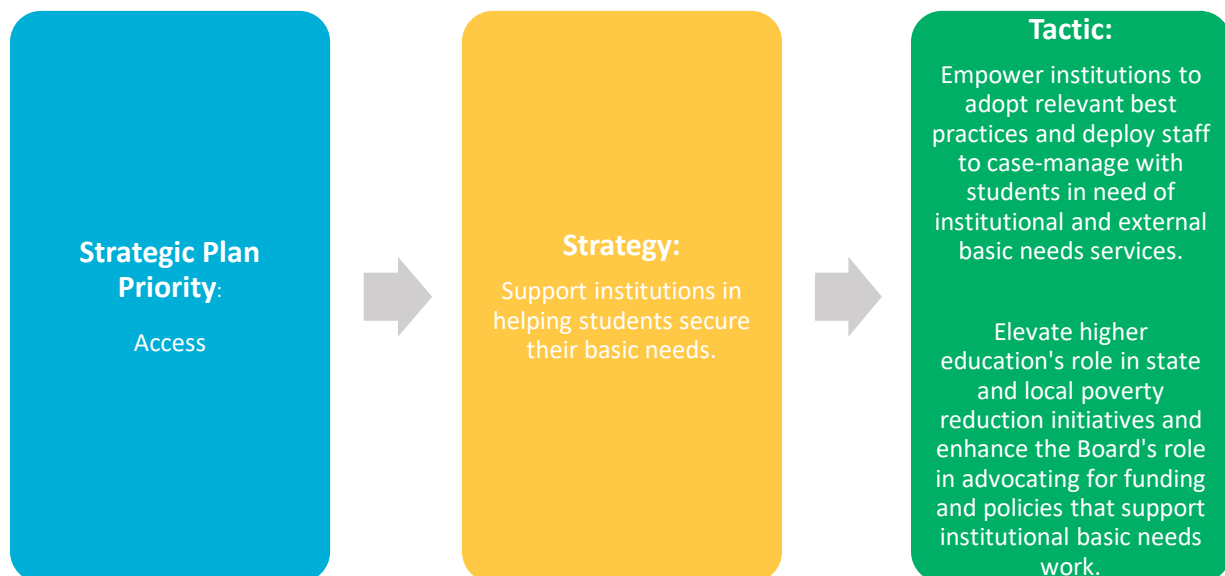
Report to Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council: Spring 2023

The Utah Board of Higher Education is committed to engaging stakeholders as it operationalizes its [Strategic Plan](#). The Board utilizes its [Equity Lens Framework](#), which recognizes the importance of purposefully involving campus and community stakeholders affected by its potential courses of action. The Campus Safety and Equity Advisory Council is one way the Board ensures members of the largest stakeholder group within USHE—students—have an opportunity to share their perspectives and provide recommendations on systemwide initiatives. In the spirit of demonstrating respect for students' time and insights, the Commissioner's staff produces a report at the end of each semester outlining how CSEAC discussions help inform the Board's work and how this feedback is shared with relevant parties.

Basic Needs and Mental Health

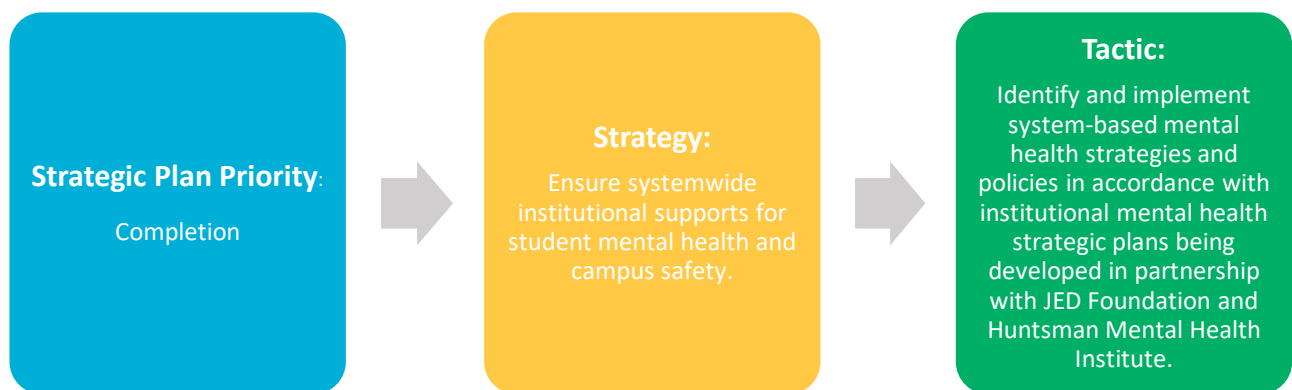
In January 2023, CSEAC members discussed students' basic needs and mental health and how those components of their life affect their ability to succeed in college. The Commissioner's office then [synthesized and coded](#) the qualitative data from this discussion.

Existing Strategic Plan Efforts that Align with CSEAC Feedback



In the summer of 2022, Commissioner’s staff conducted a [landscape analysis](#) of basic needs resources at USHE institutions. The Commissioner’s office has since used this information to educate high school counselors, college advisers, and other college access professionals about these resources through virtual training throughout the 2022-2023 school year. Members of the Commissioner’s office and staff members from Utah Valley University and Utah Tech University will present information about college basic needs resources at the June 2023 Utah State Board of Education conference for high school counselors. Through these efforts, USHE ensures that counselors and educators can help students receiving supplemental supports at the K-12 level (such as the [National School Lunch Program](#) and [McKinney-Vento](#) services) to ease the transition into postsecondary education.

In addition to educating K-12 partners on basic needs resources, the Commissioner’s designee serves on the [Utah Food Security Council](#), created in 2022 in [Senate Bill 133](#) to collaboratively address issues of hunger and nutrition disparities in Utah communities. The Commissioner’s office staff also convene quarterly USHE College Pantry Workgroup meetings, where institutional staff members share best practices and utilize each other’s best practices to address college student food insecurity more effectively. In the January CSEAC meetings, council members shared that institutions must make basic needs resources visible and accessible without stigmatizing the students who utilize these resources. The College Pantry Workgroup frequently brainstorms about this topic and has shared ideas with one another on how their campuses successfully strike this difficult balance.



Through partnerships with Trula, the JED Foundation, SafeUT, and the Huntsman Mental Health Institute, the Commissioner’s office supports institutions in helping students maintain good mental health and secure the assistance they need during mental health crises. Through Trula, students can participate in peer coaching to help them foster skills for fortifying their mental health. Through a partnership with the JED Foundation, institutional administration, counseling center staff, and other on-campus stakeholders develop and operationalize strategic plans for helping students care for their emotional wellbeing. Through SafeUT and the Huntsman Mental Health Institute’s Mobile Health First Responders, students can receive rapid assistance if they are experiencing mental health duress.

Relaying feedback to the Utah Board of Higher Education and institutional leaders

- Commissioner's staff shared the [CSEAC January meeting report](#) with institutional JED Foundation leads so that it may help inform their strategic plan efforts.
- Student Board members Xitlalli Villanueva and Korianne Gibson presented a summary of the CSEAC January meeting feedback to the Board of Higher Education's Student Affairs Committee meeting on February 17, 2023. The topic of the meeting was college affordability, and CSEAC feedback helped reveal how students are impacted by the need to pay for their basic needs while affording educational costs such as tuition and fees.
- Commissioner's staff will present feedback from the January meeting report with the College Pantry Workgroup in their May 2023 quarterly meeting.
- Commissioner's staff present feedback from all spring semester CSEAC meetings during its June 2023 consortia meetings with institutional Vice Presidents of Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officers.

Hate Speech, Hate Crimes, and Hate-Motivated Incidents

In February 2023, CSEAC members shared their thoughts on hate-motivated incidents on campus and the institutional role of preventing and responding to these incidents. The Commissioner's office then [synthesized and coded](#) the qualitative data from this discussion. In March 2023, CSEAC members offered their opinions on how institutions can deploy the work of equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging in ways that involve honor and make a substantial positive impact on students. The Commissioner's office then [synthesized and coded](#) the qualitative data from this discussion.

Existing Strategic Plan Efforts that Align with CSEAC Feedback

While it is the role of each institution to help shape a welcoming and inclusive campus culture and address misconduct perpetrated by members of the campus community, the Board is committed to centering equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging in its Strategic Plan. The Board accomplishes this in a number of ways, including utilizing the [Equity Lens Framework](#), training institutional boards of trustees on the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion, and supporting institutional presidents in meeting the expectations of the Board for incorporating equity, diversity, and inclusion into their work. USHE's Assistant Commissioner for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion also facilitates a monthly consortium meeting of institutional Chief Diversity Officers to collaboratively support and strengthen each other's work. Additionally, Commissioner's office staff work to help lead the Expect the Great initiative. The Expect the Great initiative began over a decade ago with former Regent France A. Davis and aims to reinforce a sense

of community and create a supportive path to college and career success for Black, African, and African American students across Utah.

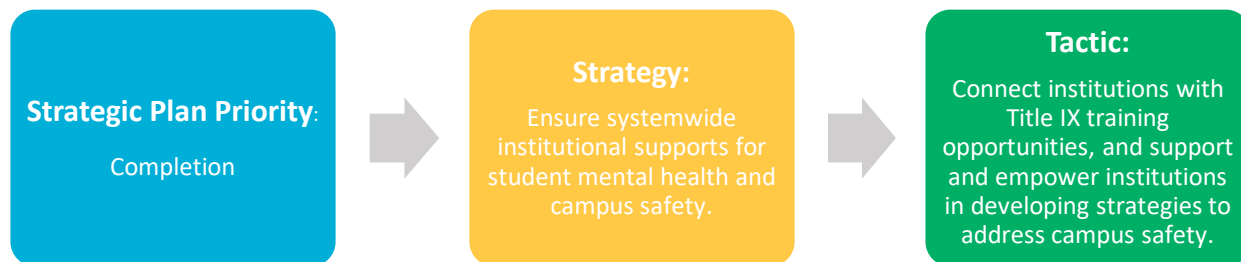
Relaying Feedback to the Utah Board of Higher Education and Institutional Leaders

- Staff from the Commissioner’s office will present feedback from all spring semester CSEAC meetings during its June 2023 consortia meetings with institutional Vice Presidents of Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officers.

Sexual Safety and Sexual Health

In April 2023, CSEAC members discussed their thoughts on higher education’s role in helping students protect their sexual safety and maintain their sexual health. The Commissioner’s office then [synthesized and coded](#) the qualitative data from this discussion. the qualitative data from this discussion.

Existing Strategic Plan Efforts that Align with CSEAC Feedback



It is the responsibility of each institution to train and educate their faculty, staff, and students about the laws, policies, prevention strategies, and resources addressing sexual misconduct and respond appropriately to reports of sexual misconduct. The Board is committed to collaborating with institutions to support these efforts and to every student having a safe environment to learn, study, and excel. USHE’s staff facilitates a consortium meeting every other month of institutional Title IX Coordinators so that they may find ways to collaboratively innovate on their important work. Additionally, USHE staff offer an annual Title IX training to educate employees working in the Title IX office about their responsibilities under state and federal law.

Relaying feedback to the Utah Board of Higher Education and institutional leaders

- Commissioner’s staff will share the CSEAC April meeting report with USHE Title IX coordinators.
- Commissioner’s staff will present feedback from all spring semester CSEAC meetings during its June 2023 consortia meetings with institutional vice presidents of student affairs and chief diversity officers.

