

July 18, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Utah Data Alliance (UDA) – Update Report

Issue

The Utah Data Alliance (UDA) is Utah's version of a State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) that has been developed using federal grant money from the U.S. Department of Education and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds that were awarded to Utah in 2009. The Utah Data Alliance is a cooperative effort between six partners (Utah System of Higher Education, Utah State Office of Education, Utah College of Applied Technology, Utah Department of Workforce Services, Utah Educational Network, and the Utah Educational Policy Center). Funding from the original grant ended on June 30, 2014.

In March of 2014 the Utah State Legislature (SB 34) appropriated \$1,800,000 to continue to support the Utah Data Alliance with \$245,000 of the \$1,800,000 being allocated to the Utah State board of Regents. Based on the continued funding of the Utah Data Alliance, H.B. 2 stated that "The Legislature intends that State Board of Regents make earnings and other pertinent data from Utah Data Alliance available to students, parents, teachers, counselors, and other interested parties"

The Commissioner's office is working to meet the legislative intent language by providing data regarding earnings and work force placement, college readiness measures, and other "pipeline" studies that will provide the information needed to evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of outreach and access programs offered by USHE institutions.

The Utah Data Alliance is a new tool for the USHE system that continues to be developed with the intent that the increased access to data will offer additional insights into student progression through Utah's educational system and into the workforce.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This item is for information only.

DLB/EJH/GLS/JAC

David L. Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education