

September 17, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Utah Scholars Initiative Annual Report

Background

The Utah Scholars Initiative (USI) was launched in the 2006-2007 school year with a \$300,000 grant from the United States Department of Education and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). This business and education partnership sends volunteers into 8th grade classrooms to share a presentation that encourages students to prepare for their future by taking the Utah Scholars Curriculum throughout all four years of high school. In 2006-2007, the Utah Scholars Initiative visited eight middle schools and four high schools, reaching 2,400 students. Each year, USI expands to reach more students: in 2013-2014, USI volunteers presented to more than 29,400 students in 133 schools.

Utah Scholars works with partner districts and schools around the state that serve a large percentage of underserved populations. This intentional outreach effort strives to increase awareness of what it takes to be ready and successful in college and to show that readiness to be achievable. In 2008, the Regents' Scholarship adopted the Utah Scholars Curriculum as the course criteria for the Regents' Scholarship. The Regents' Scholarship is currently the financial incentive linked to this program, although the scholarship is available to all Utah students who qualify.

Issue

In the 2013-2014 school year, USI partnered with 84 middle/junior high schools and 53 high schools, up from 72 middle schools and 48 high schools in 2012-2013. Iron County School District joined Utah Scholars this year, bringing Utah Scholars presentations into 13 districts: Alpine, Canyons, Davis, Granite, Iron, Jordan, Kane, Ogden, Park City, Provo, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Washington School Districts. Cache, Nebo, and Garfield School Districts are expected to become partners and begin Utah Scholars presentations in the 2014-2015 school year.

This growth has precipitated a change in our practices. New schools are now asked to take the lead in recruiting volunteers. USI staff provides a guide to new schools, which includes techniques and materials for reaching volunteers. USI continues to train and manage all volunteers through online volunteer management program which permits us to easily communicate school name, address, time, room number, and teacher name for each presentation. Our business partnerships grow in number and geographic diversity each year, in line with partner school expansion. New businesses include: Instructure, NCR, TestOut, and Prince Perleson.

Our volunteer numbers were slightly lower than 2013—129 compared to 134—but these volunteers gave more presentations, bringing the total to 831 presentations. This was made possible in part by a few volunteers who

gave a remarkable number of presentations, including one from Salt Lake Community College who gave 44 presentations, and 15 other volunteers who gave 10 or more presentations during the school year. A complete summary of the year's activities is in the attached 2013-2014 USI Annual Report.

We wish to highlight three programmatic efforts. In February, Erika Norton joined Utah Scholars as the new Utah Scholars Specialist. Erika graduated from Utah State University in 2012 with a degree in Anthropology. After interning in Washington, DC, Erika worked in faculty services at Salt Lake Community College, where she became a Utah Scholars volunteer. Building on that experience, she joined Utah Scholars as a way to intentionally reach under-served students. Erika joins Dr. Christie Fox, Director of Utah Scholars and College Completion, and Melissa Miller Kincart, Assistant Commissioner for Outreach and Access, to continue to strengthen relationships with partner districts and schools.

Two years into a renewed focus on making the Utah Scholars sign-up a more meaningful interaction for students and parents, more than 18,000 students have now pledged to be a Utah Scholar. These students receive grade-appropriate college-going advice and scholarship information each month. Park City, Jordan, Ogden, and Granite School Districts saw the biggest gains in enrollment. Counselors also receive these monthly messages to keep the Utah Scholars Initiative prominent in their minds as they advise students and parents on course selection and future plans. In 2014, 1976 students received the Utah Scholars medallion, up 29% from 2013. We expect this number to continue to grow, as we reach larger numbers of 8th graders each year.

The USI website received a significant upgrade and facelift this year, with support from UHEAA staff. The website now matches the look and feel of the USI publications and offers an easy path for students and parents to sign up and for volunteers to be connected. Schools can download (password protected) USI materials from the Resources page, and all visitors can read quotes from students who heard the presentation.

Monies provided to the State Board of Regents from the U. S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant made USI program sustainability possible from 2008-2014. In 2014, USI operations were moved to the ongoing College Readiness money provided to the Office of Access and Outreach by the legislature. The Utah Scholars Initiative has been instrumental in helping the Utah System of Higher Education maintain capacity and momentum toward increasing academic and financial preparation so more Utah citizens might more fully participate in postsecondary education.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item only, no formal action by the Board is required. However, the Board is encouraged to read and take note of the information in this memorandum and review the attached annual report, and note that further follow-up will be handled by the Commissioner's Office as part of the Board's Participation strategic objective.

David L. Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/MMK
Attachment



UTAH SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014



WELCOME



We have some great news to share with you in this year's Annual Report. In 2013-2014, our volunteers reached more than 29,000 students. We continue to hear from schools and districts that want our volunteers to talk to their students about preparing for college.

We also added key follow-up messaging with all of the students who register and piloted a more intense 10th grade program, using college students called Utah Scholars Coaches. See page 14 for more details.

As always, we rely on our fabulous volunteers to talk to students about setting goals and stepping up to higher education. Together, we're making a difference in how students think about, prepare for, and enroll in college.

Christie Fox, PhD
Utah Scholars Director





“It got me excited to take classes to
get ready for college.”


-Student, Treasure Mountain Junior High

ABOUT UTAH SCHOLARS

The Utah Scholars Initiative (USI) is a high-impact, academic program intended to motivate students to complete a **defined curriculum** while in high school to better prepare them for college and future employment.

We focus on helping students understand the **academic preparation** needed to succeed in post-secondary education and the workforce.

We provide **communities and businesses** the opportunity to interact with local schools in a meaningful way.



Utah Scholars
graduates receive a
certificate and medallion to
wear at high school
graduation.



4 years/credits of English

Includes: Language Arts 9, 10, 11, 12 or Honors Language Arts, IB Language A, AP English, ENGL 1010 & 2010, if taken as concurrent enrollment.

Does not include: journalism, yearbook, speech, drama, creative writing.

4 years/credits of math

Includes: Math 1, 2, and 3, IB Math, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2. Students must take one class beyond Math 3 or Algebra 2.

Does not include: accounting, financial literacy, basic skills, computer programming.

3.5 years/credits of social science

Includes: geography, world & U.S. history, economics, government, and AP/IB versions of these courses.

3 years/credits of a lab-based science

Must take biology, chemistry, and physics. Students taking concurrent enrollment must complete both a college lecture and a college lab, and both must be reflected on the official college transcript. A college "lecture" combined with a high school "lab" is not sufficient.

Does not include: earth science.

2 years/credits of a world language

Must be the same world/classical language taken progressively in grades 9-12. Includes: American Sign Language, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish. AP/IB versions of these courses.

Other requirements:

Maintain a 3.0 GPA • Earn a "C" or higher in these courses • Submit an ACT score

USI CURRICULUM

The USI Curriculum is based on national course recommendations that ensure students are prepared for life beyond high school.

The USI Curriculum gives students the foundation to be eligible to apply for scholarships and financial aid.

Students are introduced to the USI Curriculum in their 8th grade year by local community volunteers.

1

Students are better prepared for college level classes.

2

Students receive monthly messages about college preparation, college resources, and tips to stay on-track for college.

3

Student transcripts look better to college admissions and scholarship committees, and students may qualify for more scholarships.



“I liked knowing that I can start applying for scholarships now. I also liked knowing how much things cost.”

-Student, Midvale Middle School

ALPINE

American Fork HS
Lehi HS
Lone Peak HS
Mountain View HS
Orem HS
Pleasant Grove HS
Timpanogos HS
West Lake HS
American Fork JH
Canyon View JH
Frontier MS
Lakeridge JH
Lehi JH
Mountain Ridge JH
Oak Canyon JH
Orem JH
Pleasant Grove JH
Timberline MS
Vista Heights MS
Willowcreek MS

CACHE**

Mountain Crest HS**
Sky View HS**
North Cache Center**
South Cache Center**

CANYONS

Brighton HS
Hillcrest HS
Jordan HS
Albion MS
Butler MS
Eastmont MS
Midvale MS*
Mount Jordan MS
Union MS

DAVIS

Bountiful HS
Clearfield HS
Davis HS
Layton HS
Bountiful HS
Clearfield HS
Davis HS
Layton HS
Northridge HS
Syracuse HS
Viewmont HS
Woods Cross HS
Bountiful JH
Centennial JH
Centerville JH
Central Davis JH
Fairfield JH
Farmington JH
Kaysville JH
Legacy JH

*New schools 2013-14

**New schools 2014-15

USI PARTNER SCHOOLS

GRANITE

Cottonwood HS
Cyprus HS
Granger HS
Hunter HS
Kearns HS
Taylorsville HS
Bennion JH
Bonneville JH
Brockbank JH
Eisenhower JH
Evergreen JH**
Granite Park JH
Hunter JH
Jefferson JH
Kearns JH
Kennedy JH
Matheson JH
Valley JH
West Lake JH

IRON**

Canyon View HS*
Cedar HS*
Parowan HS*
Canyon View MS*
Cedar MS*

KANE

Kanab HS
Kanab MS

JORDAN

Bingham HS
Copper Hills HS
Herriman HS
West Jordan HS
Copper Mountain MS
Elk Ridge MS
Fort Herriman MS
Joel P. Jensen MS
South Jordan MS
Sunset Ridge MS
West Hills MS
West Jordan MS

NEBO**

Maple Mountain HS**
Payson HS**
Salem Hills HS**
Spanish Fork HS**
Springville HS**
Diamond Fork JH**
Mapleton JH**
Mt. Nebo JH**
Payson JH**
Salem JH**
Spanish Fork JH**
Springville JH**

OGDEN

Ben Lomond HS
Ogden HS
Highland JH
Mound Fort JH
Mount Ogden JH

PARK CITY

Park City HS
Treasure Mountain JH

PROVO

Provo HS
Timpview HS
Dixon MS
Centennial MS

SALT LAKE

East HS
Highland HS
West HS
Bryant MS
Clayton MS
Glendale MS
Hillside MS
Northwest MS

TOOELE

Dugway HS
Grantsville HS
Stansbury HS
Tooele HS
Wendover HS
Clarke N. Johnsen JH
Grantsville JH
Tooele JH

WASHINGTON

Desert Hills HS
Dixie HS
Enterprise HS
Hurricane HS
Pine View HS
Snow Canyon HS
Desert Hills MS
Dixie MS
Hurricane MS
Pine View MS
Snow Canyon MS

NEW SCHOOLS



Every year, we add new schools to the Utah Scholars Initiative and expand our reach to 8th grade students. Iron County School District joined in 2014, and we look forward to launching the program in Nebo and Cache School Districts in 2014-2015. If your school or district wants to participate, contact us.

“I liked that the [presentation] made me feel that my future is important and that getting into college is important.”

-Student, Clayton Middle School

USI SCHOOLS

133

District	#
Alpine	20
Canyons	9
Davis	24
Granite	18
Iron	5
Jordan	16
Kane	2
Ogden	5
Park City	2
Provo	4
Salt Lake	8
Tooele	8
Washington	12
TOTALS	133

USI ENROLLMENT GROWTH

194% ↑

District	2006-2011	2012	2013	TOTAL	% ↑
Alpine	787	1,876	3,149	5,812	68%
Canyons	225	349	748	1,322	114%
Davis	1,056	1,772	4,249	7,077	140%
Granite	281	566	3,549	4,396	527%
Iron	N/A	N/A	75	75	N/A
Jordan	208	124	1,622	1,954	1208%
Kane	N/A	0	1	1	N/A
Ogden	14	21	161	196	666%
Park City	20	5	192	217	3740%
Provo	12	14	38	64	171%
Salt Lake	48	149	282	479	89%
Tooele	12	414	1,032	1,458	149%
Washington	1,116	1,020	3,466	5,602	239%
TOTALS	3779	6,310	18,564	28,653	

This chart reflects the number of students registered to be Utah Scholars.

BY THE NUMBERS

PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

831

District	2010	2011	2012	2013
Alpine	119	134	140	150
Canyons	33	62	54	45
Davis	151	155	160	162
Granite	89	69	118	125
Iron	N/A	N/A	N/A	22
Jordan	44	67	71	109
Kane	N/A	N/A	1	1
Ogden	28	31	30	27
Park City	10	12	11	12
Provo	31	33	30	36
Salt Lake	42	55	48	53
Tooele	N/A	33	44	39
Washington	44	45	55	50
TOTALS	591	696	762	831

STUDENTS REACHED

29,404

District	2010	2011	2012	2013
Alpine	4,853	4,418	5,479	5,568
Canyons	1,059	2,012	1,700	1,784
Davis	4,765	5,095	5,141	5,287
Granite	3,060	2,415	4,155	4,457
Iron	N/A	N/A	N/A	665
Jordan	1,430	2,064	2,190	4,228
Kane	N/A	N/A	100	62
Ogden	862	890	1,058	831
Park City	330	360	360	391
Provo	915	946	931	1,487
Salt Lake	1,273	1,559	1,438	1,472
Tooele	N/A	952	1,303	1,107
Washington	1,889	1,984	2,032	2,065
TOTALS	20,436	22,695	25,887	29,404

UTAH SCHOLARS GRADUATES

Students who qualify for Utah Scholars Recognition usually meet all the qualifications to apply for the Regents' Scholarship (see page 15).

Many of the Utah Scholars graduates qualify to receive scholarships to help them pay for their education.



USI GRADUATES BY DISTRICT

1,976

School District	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
ALPINE	161	262	348	558	536	1865
CANYONS	27	86	131	22	210	476
DAVIS	40	118	174	322	393	1047
GRANITE	7	3	18	68	90	186
IRON	NA	NA	NA	NA	15	15
JORDAN	13	32	82	116	218	461
KANE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0
OGDEN	2	1	4	2	1	10
PARK CITY	20	44	40	35	45	184
PROVO	29	32	44	61	62	228
SALT LAKE	71	59	73	84	77	364
TOOELE	N/A	N/A	23	43	53	119
WASHINGTON	44	99	99	214	276	732
TOTALS	414	736	1036	1525	1976	5,687



“[The Utah Scholars Presentation] showed how critical it is to start preparing now. It taught me things I would never have known.”

-Student, Sunset Junior High School

USI PARTNERS

American Fork Chamber of Commerce
AmeriCorps VISTA
AVID
Bank of America
Bank of American Fork
Check City
Cyprus Credit Union
Dixie State University
Echelon Inc.
EnergySolutions, LLC
Imagine Learning
NCR
Salt Lake Community College
SentrX Animal Care
Timpanogos Regional Hospital
United Way of Salt Lake
United Way of Utah County
Utah State University - Tooele
Utah Technology Council
Utah Valley University
Weber State University
Wells Fargo
Westminster College

TOP VOLUNTEERS

DIANE BRADSHAW

44 presentations given
Direct Communications

GREGORY ROBERTS

31 presentations given
Salt Lake Community College

BERDJE BEZDJIAN

22 presentations given
Salt Lake Community College

SARAH JANE-PEDERSEN

21 presentations given
Salt Lake Community College

CLIFF HALL

17 presentations given
Cyprus Credit Union

CYNTHIA GAMBILL

17 presentations given
Corporate Alliance

VILATE VAN LEEUWEN

17 presentations given
Salt Lake Community College

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are heroes: they take time out of their work days to go into 8th grade classrooms to give the Utah Scholars presentation. Our amazing volunteers share their passion by helping students dream big about college. Utah's big college goal to have 66% of our population with a college credential by 2020 relies on people like our volunteers, who want to make a difference.

We recruit volunteers through a variety of ways.

Corporate partnerships: Our corporate partners release employees from work to volunteer a few hours per week. Some

business partners choose a school nearby and agree to provide all of the presentations for that school, forming a strong and lasting relationship with that school.

New schools and their networks: We ask schools new to Utah Scholars to reach out to their networks, PTAs, and community councils to recruit volunteers for their schools. This key initiative allows us to expand our reach.

Word of mouth: We love it when our current volunteers bring a friend to training. We are always looking for new people who want to help students reach their college dreams.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE





WHAT'S NEW

NEW WEBSITE

Have you seen our updated website? Our new site matches our presentation and makes it easy for students and parents to sign up for the Utah Scholars newsletter.

Each month, students receive a newsletter full of grade-specific information on what to do now to be college ready. We also highlight a scholarship for students (yes, even 8th and 9th graders can apply for some scholarships!) and seniors get special information about college and scholarship deadlines and requirements.

Volunteers and schools will also be able to download the Utah Scholars presentation and other materials from the website.

WELCOME TO ERIKA NORTON

We were so lucky this year that Erika Norton joined the Utah Scholars staff. Before she was hired on full-time she was a volunteer for USI.

Erika graduated from Utah State University with a bachelor's degree in anthropology. She has a passion for education and working with under-represented populations.

She has brought new energy, a positive attitude, and her outstanding presentation skills to the USI team.

UTAH SCHOLARS COACHES AND SOPHOMORE PROGRAM

In 2014, Utah Scholars launched a new program, which places college students in 10th grade classrooms for weekly lessons written by the Utah Scholars staff.

The goal of the program is to increase college readiness and awareness for under-represented (first-generation, low-income, and minority) students who could achieve the Regents' Scholarship Base Award but who are not likely to apply for the scholarship and may need additional help applying to college and for financial aid.

Our first year was small but successful. We placed nine Coaches in five schools. More than 50 students received some Utah Scholars "coaching." In 2014 we will focus on four schools, and we are looking at models to increase student participation.



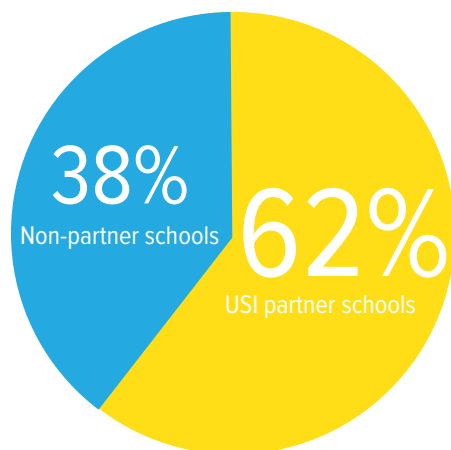
“I loved seeing my students grow as the weeks progressed. It was such a rewarding experience”

Cecilia Cardoza
-Utah Scholars Coach

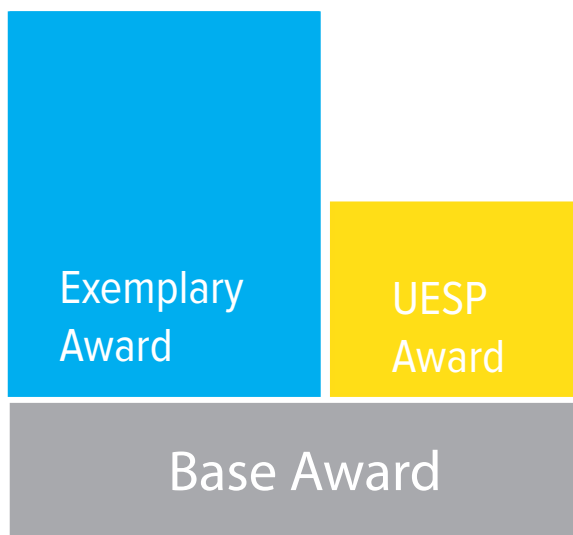
REGENTS' SCHOLARSHIP

Our sister program, the Regents' Scholarship, provides a scholarship of up to \$6400 over two years to students. Students who successfully complete the Utah Scholars curriculum will have met the course requirements to apply for the scholarship. Nearly 4000 Utah seniors applied for the scholarship this year, the majority of whom came from Utah Scholars partner schools. For more information, visit regentsscholarship.org.

62% of all applicants for Regents' Scholarship were Utah Scholars in 2014.



AWARD INFORMATION



The Regents' Scholarship offers three awards. A student can earn a combination of awards: the Base award, Base & UESP, Base & Exemplary, or Base, Exemplary & UESP awards.

BASE AWARD

- \$1,000 one-time award
- Complete the USI Curriculum
- Earn a "C" or higher in each of the core classes
- Earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Submit an ACT score

EXEMPLARY AWARD

- In 2014, \$1,250 per semester. May be renewed for four semesters.
- Complete the USI Curriculum
- Earn a "B" or higher in each of the core classes
- Earn a 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Earn a 26 or higher ACT score

UESP AWARD

- Up to \$400 match
- Meet the BASE AWARD requirements
- Contribute \$100 or more annually to a Utah Educational Savings Plan during the ages of 14-17.

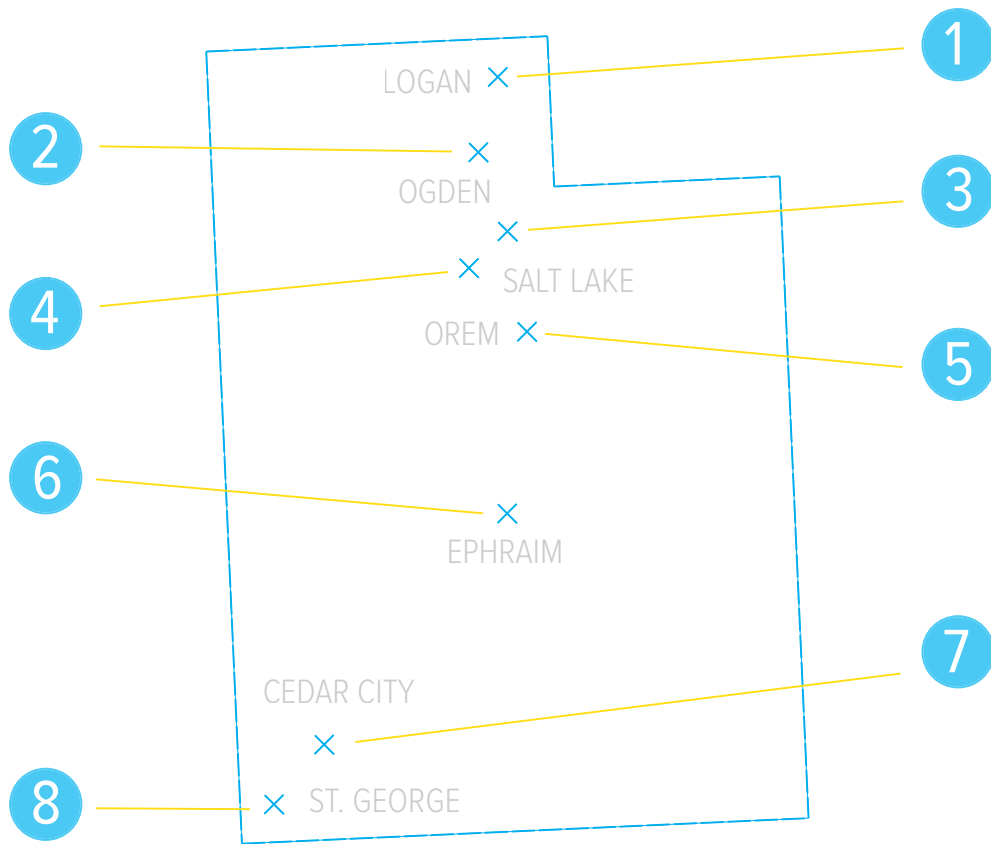
Award amounts are determined annually and are subject to legislative funding and the total number of qualified participants. Therefore, award amounts may be reduced, may vary from year to year, and are dependent on when the recipient is enrolled in college.



“I want to go to college because I want to earn my own living by earning a degree and gaining a career that I love to do. I think it will be tons of fun with all of the new experiences.”

Utah Scholars Sophomore Program Participant
-Ben Lomond High School

USHE INSTITUTIONS



1 UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, UT

5 UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY
Orem, UT

2 WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Ogden, UT

6 SNOW COLLEGE
Ephraim, UT

3 UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Salt Lake City, UT

7 SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
Cedar City, UT

4 SALT LAKE COMMUNITY CLG
Salt Lake City, UT

8 DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY
St. George, UT

For more info on the Utah System of Higher Education & affiliated institutions, visit
www.higheredutah.org.



“[The Utah Scholars Presentation] helped me to be even more motivated to go to college.”

-Student,
Syracuse Junior High School

“I was able to see what actually happens after high school and how to prepare for college.”

-Student,
Canyon View Middle School

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The Utah Scholars Initiative Annual Report was paid for by a Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.