

May 11, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents
FROM: David L. Buhler
SUBJECT: Process to Support Institutional Proposals for Strategic Workforce Investment Funds

Issue

The 2016 Utah legislature appropriated \$1.5 million for Strategic Workforce Investment (SWI) via passage of SB103S01. Funding is available to postsecondary institutions to develop educational pathway partnerships that serve regional workforce needs. These pathway programs are meant to prepare individuals for high growth and high wage occupations. SB103S01 requires the Board of Regents to take “official action” in support of proposals submitted by Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) institutions. This document outlines a process for institutions to obtain Board of Regents support for SWI proposals.

Background

Institutions that wish to apply for funding are required to submit SWI proposals directly to the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED). The timeline for the application process may not always coincide with Board of Regent meetings in such a way that a proposal may be reviewed by the Board in time to meet application deadlines. The following process is designed to streamline the application requirements for SWI funding, allowing institutions to obtain the statutorily-required Board support in time to meet deadlines established by GOED:

The Commissioner of Higher Education shall have authority to provide notice of support for institutional SWI proposals on behalf of the Board.

Prior to granting notice of support the Commissioner shall:

Receive notice of an institution’s intent to apply for SWI funding by requesting a brief abstract of each proposed SWI project prior to GOED’s application deadline. This abstract shall describe the project concept. The intent is not to eliminate proposals but to consider and facilitate system coordination and to initiate a process to obtain Board support as specified in statute.

Request that institutions submit a copy of the completed proposals to the Commissioner’s office at or prior to the GOED application deadline.

The Commissioner shall include a list of the proposals that receive Board support on the General Consent Calendar at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Policy Issues

There are no policy issues that need to be resolved in connection with this item.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Board of Regents approve the Process to Support Institutional Proposals for Strategic Workforce Investment Funds as described herein.

David L. Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/BKC