

November 9, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Regents' and New Century Scholarships Report

Background

The Utah State Board of Regents administers two scholarship programs funded by the Legislature. The New Century Scholarship was created in 1999 as a Governor's initiative to encourage students to accelerate their education by earning an associate degree in high school or by pursuing a math and science curriculum. The Regents' Scholarship was an initiative of the State Board of Regents in 2008 to encourage Utah High School students to prepare academically and financially for college in grades 9-12 by completing a defined course of study, meeting minimum GPA requirements, earning minimum grades in specific course grades, and meeting ACT requirements.

Issue

System Updates

A new scholarship administrative system was implemented over the past year with great success. A survey of the 2016 cohort of applicants revealed the following key points:

- 89% of those that responded to the survey reported that they either "somewhat agreed" or "completely agreed" that the application directions were easy to follow.
- 70% of those that responded to the survey reported that they were able to complete the application in less than 45 minutes.
- 70% of those that responded to the survey reported that they either "somewhat agreed" or "completely agreed" that the application was easier than they expected.

New upgrades are being implemented based on student feedback. Starting November 2016, students will be able to choose to have notices regarding their account sent via e-mail only or via both text messaging and e-mail. In addition, a searchable database called the Regents' Scholarship Course Warehouse will launch during the Spring of 2017. The Warehouse will allow students to search for courses that will fulfill their remaining scholarship requirements in multiple ways including by subject, by high school and by type of school (online/traditional). Student surveys of their user experiences will be ongoing and will help improve the system when appropriate.

Award Information

The 2016 cohort of New Century Scholarship recipients remained relatively flat compared to 2015 at 275 recipients. There are now 653 students from the 2012-2016 cohorts with continued eligibility for the New Century Scholarship.

The Regents' Scholarship continues to grow with 3,270 students qualifying for the scholarship in the 2016 cohort. Approximately two-thirds of those who qualified for the base Regents' Scholarship award also qualified for the exemplary award (which requires higher grade point averages, grades, and ACT scores). Additionally, 17 percent of recipients also qualified for the Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) savings match. As a result, there are now 5,893 students from the 2012-2016 cohorts who have continued eligibility for the Regents' Scholarship.

Given the number of students participating in these programs, the State Board of Regents' budget request included \$11,205,800 in new money for the Regents' Scholarship program to fully fund anticipated new 2017 recipients and those students with continuing eligibility for both scholarship programs. Attached is a year-end report highlighting the award breakdown by school district.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action is required.

David L. Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/JH/CFB
Attachment

The following charts include information regarding the number of applicants and number of awards by school district.

New Century Scholarship--2016 Cohort

District	Applications	Awards
Alpine District	35	21
Beaver District	7	7
Cache District	1	0
Canyons District	4	2
Charter	6	4
Davis District	28	21
Early College	241	158
Granite District	7	5
Home School	4	4
Iron District	1	0
Jordan District	28	22
Logan District	1	0
Morgan District	4	3
Murray District	1	0
Nebo District	5	5
North Summit District	7	4
Provo District	2	2
Rich District	1	1
Salt Lake District	1	0
San Juan District	3	3
South Sanpete District	1	0
South Summit District	5	3
Wasatch District	2	2
Washington District	4	1
Weber District	7	7
Grand Total	406	275

Regents' Scholarship--2016 Cohort

School District	Applicants	Total Awards	Bases Only	Base and UESP	Base and Exemplary	Base, Exemplary and UESP
Alpine	844	627	147	13	388	79
Beaver	1	1	0	0	1	0
Box Elder	130	84	33	4	37	10
Cache	263	207	44	6	142	15
Canyons	420	284	75	25	127	57
Carbon	4	1	0	0	1	0
Charter	39	23	7	0	13	3
Davis	594	451	111	18	240	82
Duchesne	6	4	1	0	1	2
Early College High School	60	32	9	3	14	6
Emery	16	11	6	0	4	1
Garfield	5	5	1	0	3	1
Grand	4	2	1	0	1	0
Granite	413	241	85	7	118	31
Iron	34	25	8	0	15	2
Jordan	370	281	72	11	156	42
Juab	9	7	2	1	3	1
Logan	61	40	18	0	19	3
Millard	2	1	1	0	0	0
Morgan	27	18	2	0	15	1
Murray	21	15	0	0	11	4
Nebo	376	256	79	9	150	18
North Sanpete	4	2	1	0	1	0
North Summit	1	1	0	0	1	0
Ogden	10	7	2	0	4	1
Park City	21	15	6	0	4	5
Private	50	18	7	0	8	3
Provo	83	64	6	3	44	11
Salt Lake	123	67	16	4	38	9
San Juan	5	4	2	1	0	1
Sevier	33	20	6	0	12	2
South Sanpete	40	30	17	1	11	1
South Summit	12	9	4	0	5	0
Tooele	124	72	31	1	33	7
Uintah	8	6	1	0	5	0
Wasatch	85	46	12	3	26	5
Washington	334	201	79	6	104	12
Weber	125	92	28	2	50	12
Grand Total	4757	3270	920	118	1805	427