

July 11, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: USHE – Board of Regents Strategic Plan Update – 2018 Progress Report

Issue

The Commissioner's Office has prepared the 2018 Progress Report for the Boards of Regents' 2025 Strategic Plan. The report summarizes the work that that Board and Commissioner's Office has engaged in over the last year, provides a status update on the priority initiatives adopted in May, and identifies eight system metrics designed to measure progress made on the four strategic objectives of the Board.

Background

On January 22, 2016, the Board adopted a ten-year higher education strategic plan, designed to focus the efforts of the Board on three critical strategic objectives: Affordable Participation, Timely Completion, and Innovative Discovery. In 2017 the Board received its first annual progress report on the work that the system had engaged in related to the Board's objectives.

Over the last year, the Board, in concert with the Commissioner's Office, has reaffirmed its strategic goal to "increase the educational attainment of Utahns to enhance their overall quality of life, and to meet Utah's current and future workforce needs." Additionally, the Board realigned its strategic objectives to include: Affordable Participation, Timely Completion, Research and Workforce, and Capacity and Growth, with the expectation that these strategic objectives would help guide the work that the Commissioner's Office and USHE institutions engage in over the next seven years to realize the Board's strategic goal.

In May 2018, the Board of Regents approved priority initiatives that will most advance the Board's strategic goal. To accomplish these priorities, existing resources within the Commissioner's Office will be identified, or, if necessary, additional resources will be requested from the state.

The 2018 Progress Report:

1. Summarizes and provides an update on the priority initiatives
2. Highlights progress on ongoing system efforts related to Strategic Communications and Student Career Exploration, Completion, and Mental Health issues.
3. Identifies eight system-focused metrics designed to measure progress made on the four strategic objectives of the Board.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Board approve the 2018 Progress Report and the eight system focused metrics, direct the Commissioner's Office to work with institutions to develop institution-specific goals related to each of these system metrics, and provide an updated progress report in 2019.

DLB/KLH/SJ

David L. Buhler
Commissioner of Higher Education