



August 2, 2019

## Overview: Workforce, Access, and Advocacy Committee

To lead out on college access issues, to identify and align statewide workforce and economic development efforts, and to advocate for higher education statewide, the Board of Regents is establishing a new standing committee: the Workforce, Access, and Advocacy Committee.

### Proposed committee purpose

The Workforce, Access, and Advocacy Committee will provide all Utahns—especially those from underserved populations—the opportunity to recognize the value of higher education, enter college, and connect with meaningful employment upon graduation.

### Anticipated 2019-20 committee outcomes

#### Access:

- Inform direction on state scholarship programs
- Expand college access advising program
- Determine path forward to address Concurrent Enrollment growth, outreach, and gaps in enrollment
- Implement comprehensive outreach strategy

#### Advocacy:

- Closing the Opportunity Gap campaign groundwork:
  - Message development
  - External stakeholder engagement
  - Review and advise on benchmarking survey
  - Indicate desired institutional support for this effort

#### Workforce:

- Develop guiding principles to advise statewide programs such as Strategic Workforce Investment, Talent Ready Utah, and the State Workforce Development Board
- Evaluate demographic, enrollment, and completion data to set specific goals for the Closing the Opportunity Gap initiative
- Career and Technical Education Scholarship program approval

### Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action is required

#### **Attachment:**

WAA Committee Overview

## Workforce, Access, and Advocacy Committee

### Justification for committee:

- To lead out on college access issues, to identify and align statewide workforce and economic development efforts, and to advocate for higher education statewide, the Board is establishing a new standing committee: the Workforce, Access, and Advocacy Committee.
- Much of the work of current Board committees is institution-facing, or with a very limited external audience.
- Top priorities of the Board include getting high school students in the door to college, as well as understanding the outcomes of grads entering the workforce and better aligning with workforce needs.
- This committee will work on initiatives affecting those entering and exiting postsecondary education, with these populations being the most external-facing of all those the Board works with. As such, this committee is perfectly positioned to focus on statewide advocacy of higher education.



### Committee purpose:

The Workforce, Access, and Advocacy Committee will provide all Utahns—especially those from underserved populations—the opportunity to recognize the value of higher education, enter college, and connect with meaningful employment upon graduation.

It will do this by:

- Making the transition from high school to college seamless and simple;
- Identifying and aligning workforce and economic development efforts statewide; and
- Advocating for higher education throughout the state.

To accomplish this, the committee will:

- Strengthen partnerships with state and community partners, as well as with USHE institutions;
- Use data to inform decision-making and goal-setting; and
- Be laser-focused on outcomes of initiatives and efforts.

Success looks like:

- Closing the opportunity gap
  - Increase college participation rate of Utah high school graduates by 6% by 2025
- Tying USHE graduate outcomes with workforce demand
- Increasing the public perception of the value of higher education

- Set goal based on data from forthcoming benchmarking survey

**Main issues for committee to address:**

- Identifying and addressing key barriers in transition from high school to college
- Changing perception of value of higher education in Utah
- Identifying and aligning statewide workforce and economic development efforts

**Ongoing work of committee:**

- Plan and lead annual K-20 Summit
- Work with the Utah State Board of Education, Utah System of Technical Colleges Board of Trustees, and the Governor's office on streamlining high school to college transition
- Advise on and engage with multi-year higher education advocacy campaign
- Understand enrollment projections, institutional programs, and economic outlook
- Evaluate alignment of system output with statewide and regional labor market demand

**FY20 anticipated committee outcomes:**

Access:

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Workforce:

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**Data needs:**

- Enrollment and completion gap data by white/minority populations
- Evaluation of state scholarships
- College access advisors expansion data
- High School Feedback Report
- Gaps in Concurrent Enrollment participation, by free & reduced lunch and minority populations
- Benchmarking public perception survey to inform campaign needs
- Enrollment projections