



July 25, 2019

College Access Advising Program: Phase I Expansion

At its January 2019 meeting, the Board of Regents announced the expansion of the college access advising program starting fall 2019.

Expansion update

Thirty-four high schools will have college access advisors starting in August 2019, based around four regional clusters. Thirty-four college access advisors have been hired for these high schools as of August 1.

Weber/Davis County Cluster	Salt Lake County Cluster	Utah County Cluster	Washington County Cluster
Weber School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fremont Weber Roy Bonneville 	Salt Lake City School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East West Highland 	Alpine School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain View Orem Westlake 	Washington School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dixie Desert Hills Snow Canyon Hurricane Crimson Water Canyon Pine View
Davis School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearfield Layton 	Granite School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granger Cyprus Hunter Kearns Taylorville Cottonwood Skyline* 	Provo School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provo Timpview 	
Ogden School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Lomond Ogden 	Jordan School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Jordan 	Nebo School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Springville Payson 	
	Canyons School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hillcrest 		

**Skyline High School elected to participate in this initial expansion using its own one-time grant funds.*

Institutional integration

To help with this expansion, mid-level supervisors—regional coordinators—will oversee 8-12 college access advisors in their regional cluster. While regional coordinators are USHE employees, they will be housed at the USHE institution in their region to be better able to tie in to institutional programming and college access efforts.

Four regional coordinators have been hired as part of this initial expansion:

- Weber/Davis County Cluster: Tanner Telford, Weber State University
- Salt Lake County Cluster: Rachel Everitt, University of Utah
- Utah County Cluster: Cassandra Fuimaono, Utah Valley University
- Washington County Cluster: Dallyn Hallows, Dixie State University

College access advisor training

For the week of August 5-9, 2019, the college access advisors, regional coordinators, and other stakeholders will participate in a training at the system office. The training will consist of:

- Social change leadership and collaboration
- Scholarship resources and financial aid
- Dreamers and undocumented students
- UtahFutures overview
- Database training
- FAFSA training and walk-through
- College applications and Utah College Application Week events
- Effective communication and professionalism

The next week, August 12-16, the college access advisors, regional coordinators, and program staff will take a road trip throughout the state to visit every USHE campus, as well as Brigham Young University and Westminster College campuses, to meet with admissions directors, take a campus tour, and speak with current students about their experience. This integral part of the program ensures all college access advisors can speak to their students about campus feel, resources, and connection from a place of experience and understanding.

Program background

The college access advisors, who are recent college graduates, will help students register for and complete college entrance exams, submit college applications, apply for scholarships and financial aid, and connect them to first year experience programs to ensure a smooth transition from high school to college.

This statewide college access advising program expands the Utah College Advising Corps at the University of Utah, which was initially established in 2007 under a joint grant from the Board of Regents and the University of Utah from the Jack Kent Cook Foundation. The program has been in 12 high schools for nearly 12 years, and is proven to increase college participation rates for high school graduates in the schools they serve, especially for first-generation, underserved students.

The Commissioner's office has partnered with the University of Utah to fund this initial expansion: the Commissioner's office has reprioritized \$1 million of existing, ongoing funds towards this expansion, and the University of Utah is funding the program in the 12 high schools that it has historically funded. Once the program is statewide, the Commissioner's office will fully fund the program.

This expansion is the first step in taking the program statewide. In September 2018, the Board approved a proposal that would provide a full-time, permanent college access advisor for every high school in Utah by the 2021-2022 school year. The number of regional coordinators will increase into more USHE institutions proportionally, as the program expands.

Once the program is statewide, college enrollment rates of Utah high school graduates are anticipated to increase 5-9%.

Commissioner's Recommendation

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