



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB P

October 30, 2020

Utah College Advising Corps Program Expansion

It is proposed that program funds from the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority be transferred to the Commissioner's office to expand the Utah College Advising Corps program under the joint direction of the Commissioner's office and the University of Utah. The funds—\$2 million per year for the next three years—will allow the UCAC program to expand to a total of 55-65 Utah high schools for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 academic years.

Expansion of the UCAC program is a major component of a broader K-16 strategy with the Utah Board of Higher Education that will fundamentally change how Utah's high school students access postsecondary education and systematically remove barriers to access for first-generation and underrepresented students. This expansion also aligns with the longstanding efforts and mission of the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority to inform K-12 students and parents of their financial aid opportunities for college.

College access advisors support high school students as they embark on their path to postsecondary education, whether that path leads to a technical college or degree-granting institution. The UCAC program places a recent college graduate full-time in partner high schools, with a dual reporting line to an on-site school counselor and the UCAC program office. College access advisors help students determine possible future careers, guide them through institution admissions and financial aid applications, and connect them to their receiving postsecondary institution. The UCAC program is part of the National College Advising Corps. It has been housed at the University of Utah since 2007 and has a proven success record in increasing postsecondary participation rates, particularly of first-generation students.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Utah Board of Higher Education approve the transfer of \$2 million per year for three years from the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority program funds to the Commissioner's office.