



December 18, 2020

## Access strategies to support Board strategic plan

The Utah Board of Higher Education is developing a five-year strategic plan focused on four priorities: Access, Completion, Affordability, and Workforce Alignment and Economic Impact. The Commissioner has charged the Board's Student Affairs Committee with determining the definition, goal(s), and specific strategies for the Access priority.

At its November 2020 meeting, the Student Affairs Committee adopted the following definition and goal for the Access priority:

- **Definition of Access:** Each student has equitable access to higher education.
- **Goal:** Increase the college-going rate of underrepresented groups by %% by 2025.

For the purposes of this goal, USHE proposes that underrepresented groups be defined as:

1. Students facing economic barriers/low-income
2. Students of color who have been historically underrepresented in higher education

Strategies in support of the Access priority will focus on students facing economic barriers, as well as students of color from the following demographic populations: African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, and Pacific Islander.

Possible strategies that will support the Board in reaching its identified Access goal include:

- **Student-facing programming:**
  - a. Place a college access advisor in every high school in the state.
  - b. Develop statewide strategy for population-specific college and career readiness programming for K-12 students.
  - c. Adopt Keys to Success as the statewide college readiness platform.
- **Institutional supports:**
  - d. Work with institutions to develop a common admissions application.
  - e. Direct institutions to set individual goals to reduce gaps in the Concurrent Enrollment participation rate of underrepresented students.
  - f. Analyze institutional support services for undocumented students.
  - g. Analyze institutional support services for students' basic needs.

- **Collaboration:**
  - a. Develop a statewide network of K-16 alliances to support the Board's higher education access goals.
  - b. Partner with USBE and DWS to expand access to higher education opportunities for adult learners.
- **Data:**
  - a. Define underrepresented student groups and develop an accompanying measurable data structure.
  - b. Fully implement a statewide student identifier to measure students in P-20.

The Student Affairs Committee will discuss these strategies and determine which will be included in the final draft of the strategic plan, to be adopted by the full Board in 2021.

### **Commissioner's Recommendation**

This is a discussion item only; no action is required.