UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

December 18, 2020

Innovation Task Force

At the October 30, 2020 Board meeting, the Commissioner recommended the Board establish an innovation task force to begin exploring and developing systemwide innovations in online education and other areas of high potential. It was proposed that the task force include representatives from the Office of the Commissioner and other System experts to convene regularly and begin laying the groundwork for moving new initiatives forward.

The Innovation Task Force has since been established and has had its first meeting. Members of the Innovation Task Force include USHE representatives from across the state with various areas of expertise. The inaugural meeting was held on December 3, 2020, where task force members began foundational work on designing a framework to prioritize innovation across the System and discussed current industry trends and literature on higher education innovation.

Below is a sampling of the resources shared with the committee:

- [Innovation in education: What works, what doesn't, and what to do about it?](#) (Serdyukov, 2017)
- [Is This the End of College as We Know It?](#) (Belkin, 2020)
- [Employers as Educators](#) (Fain, 2019)
- [Google's Growing IT Certificate](#) (McKenzie, 2019)
- [Is Amazon Training its Workers or Creating a College Alternative](#) (Lederman, 2019)

Innovation Task Force Membership

Office of the Commissioner
- Dave Woolstenhulme, Commissioner of Higher Education (Co-Chair)
- Jessica Gilmore, Associate Commissioner for Workforce Development (Co-Chair)
- Geoffrey Landward, Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education
- Kim Ziebarth, Associate Commissioner of Technical Education

Board Members
- Alan Hall
- Aaron Osmond
- Candyce Damron

University of Utah

- Deb Keyek-Franssen, Associate VP and Dean of Continuing and Online Education
- Dan Reed, Senior VP of Academic Affairs

Utah State University

- Noelle Cockett, President
- Robert Wagner, VP of Academic and Instructional Services

Weber State University

- Leigh Shaw, Director of General Education

Utah Valley University

- Kelly Flanagan, VP of Digital Transformation and CIO

Southern Utah University

- Scott Wyatt, President

Dixie State University

- Chris Guymon, Assistant Provost of Adult and Professional Education

Salt Lake Community College

- David Hubert, Associate Provost of Learning Advancement

Snow College

- Brad Cook, President

Southwest Technical College

- Will Pierce, VP of Instruction and Accreditation

Ogden-Weber Technical College

- Jim Taggart, President

Commissioner's Recommendation

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