



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB B

April 16, 2021

Utah College Advising Corps Program Expansion

At the Utah Board of Higher Education meeting on October 30, 2020, the Board approved a transfer of \$2 million in program funds per year for three years from the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority 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 will allow the UCAC program to expand to a total of 55 Utah high schools for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 academic years. This includes the hiring of five coordinators to oversee regional clusters of advisers and to coordinate postsecondary access efforts in their region.

During the 2021 legislative session, the Utah State Legislature allocated an additional \$2.5 million, one-time, for the UCAC expansion. The Commissioner's office is working with the Utah College Advising Corp to determine next steps with these funds, and will bring that to the Board at its next meeting.

The 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 higher education and systematically remove barriers to access for first-generation and underrepresented students. This expansion also aligns with the longstanding efforts and mission of UHEAA to inform high school students and parents of their financial aid opportunities for college.

Commissioner's Recommendation

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