



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB A

July 16, 2021

Update: Utah Board of Higher Education Strategic Plan

In 2020, Utah's two higher education systems merged, creating a single system of 16 higher education institutions. The Utah Board of Higher Education adopted a comprehensive strategic plan in May 2021 to guide the newly-merged System for the next five years. To develop the strategic plan, the Board and Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education engaged in a rigorous, collaborative, and creative process that built on past initiatives from previous boards and incorporated feedback from institutions, state leaders, students, and other stakeholders.

The Board's strategic plan focuses on six key priorities:

- System Unification
- Access
- Affordability
- Completion
- Workforce Alignment
- Research

The strategic plan is guided by two main themes:

1. Alignment of measures between statewide postsecondary attainment goals and performance-based funding
2. Centering of educational equity and inclusion, so that higher education opportunities exist for all Utahns

Update

The Commissioner's office is developing project plans for each tactic identified in the strategic plan, as well as an implementation timeline for the next 12 months. The Commissioner's office will present the first progress report on the strategic plan at the September 2021 Board meeting. The progress reports will be updated monthly and available on ushe.edu.

The Research priority of the strategic plan (added at the May 2021 Board meeting) is being developed in partnership with the University of Utah and Utah State University. A draft of the Research priority, including goals, strategies, and tactics, will be presented to the Board for consideration at the September 2021 meeting as well.

Commissioner's Recommendation

Information item only.