



February 18, 2022

## Utah College Advising Corps Expansion Update

College access advisers 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 Utah College Advising Corps (UCAC) program partners a recent college graduate with participating high schools. They help students determine possible future careers, guide them through institution admissions and financial aid applications, and connect them to their receiving institution. The UCAC program is part of the National College Advising Corps and has a proven success record in increasing postsecondary participation rates, particularly of first-generation students.

Below is progress on the UCAC expansion thus far:

**Start: 2020-21**

1 regional coordinator overseeing  
13 advisers serving  
**13** high schools in  
5 school districts

**Phase I: 2021-22**

6 regional coordinators overseeing  
48 advisers serving  
**51** high schools in  
21 school districts

**Phase II: 2022-23**

6 regional coordinators overseeing  
60 advisers serving  
**86** high schools in  
35 school districts

**UCAC Program Goals for 2021-22**

For high schools with a college access adviser:

1. FAFSA Completion: **43%** will complete the FAFSA, an overall increase of 5%
2. College Applications: **77%** will submit at least one college application
3. 1:1 Meetings: **73%** will have a 1:1 meeting with an access adviser
4. Family Engagement: **30%** of parents and families will have a meaningful interaction with an access adviser
5. FAFSA Assistance: **42%** will receive assistance and support with the FAFSA completion process

As of January 31, 2022, the UCAC program is over halfway to meeting the above program goals for the school year.

In 2021, the Utah Legislature provided \$2.5 million one-time to support the expansion of UCAC. The Board of Higher Education also approved a transfer of program funds from the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) to the Commissioner’s Office for a three-year expansion of the program.

This expansion is a major component of the Board's broader K-16 strategy 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.

**Commissioner's Recommendation**

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



# UTAH COLLEGE ADVISING CORPUS EXPANSION

February 2022



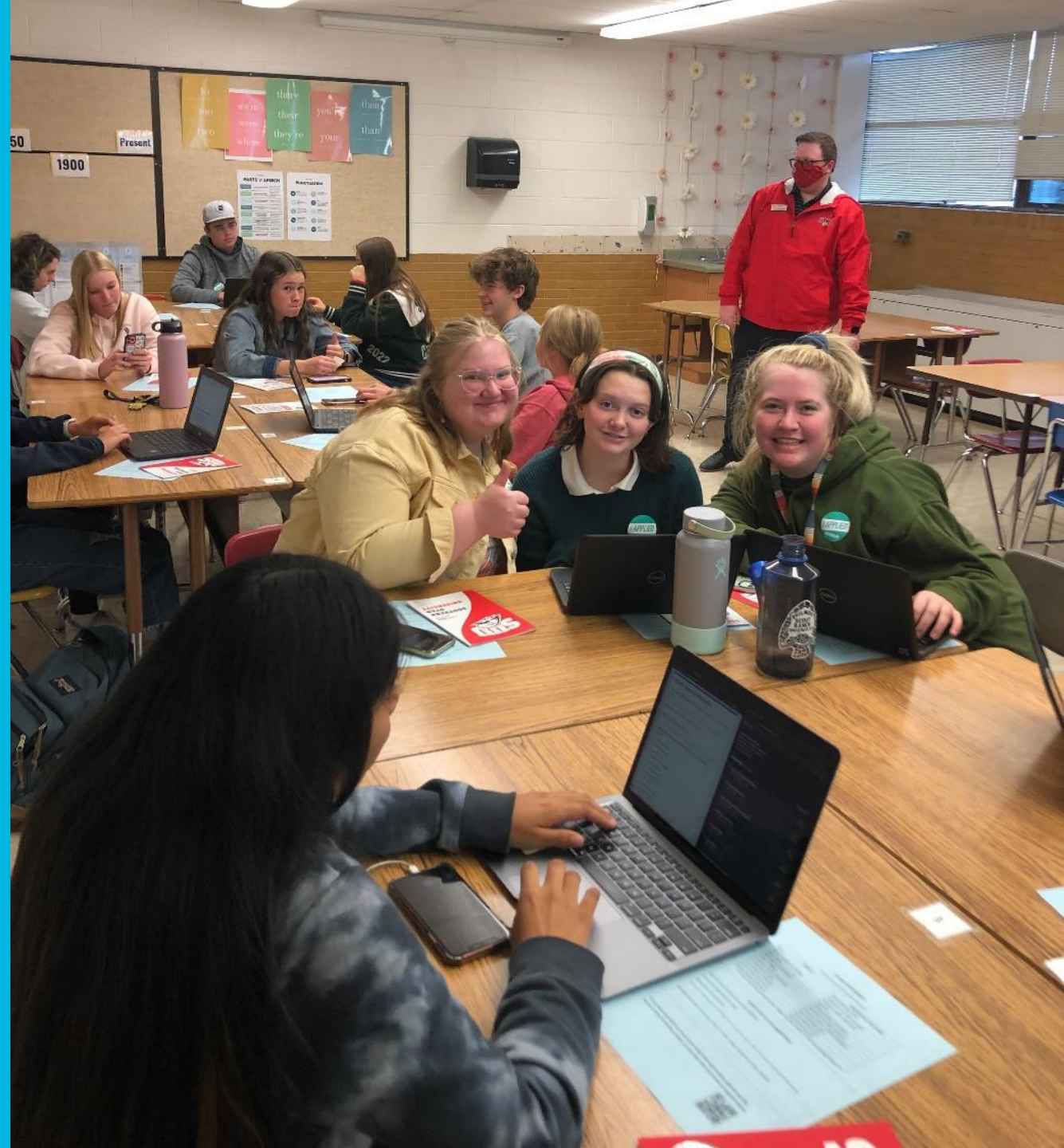
UTAH  
SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER  
EDUCATION

# Board of Higher Education Access Goal

Increase the college-going rate of Utah's high school graduates by 3% in 5 years

## Strategies:

- Increase FAFSA completion
- Ensure high school students are meaningfully informed on scholarships, dual enrollment programming, financial aid, and higher ed pathways





## Utah College Advising Corps (UCAC)

- Education pathway planning  
*(for both technical & degree-granting colleges)*
- Admissions
- Scholarships & financial aid
- Connection to campus
- **Create a college-going culture**

# 5% to 9%

High schools with an access adviser see a 5% to 9% increase in the college-going rate of their graduates



# Statewide Expansion:

## Start: 2020-21

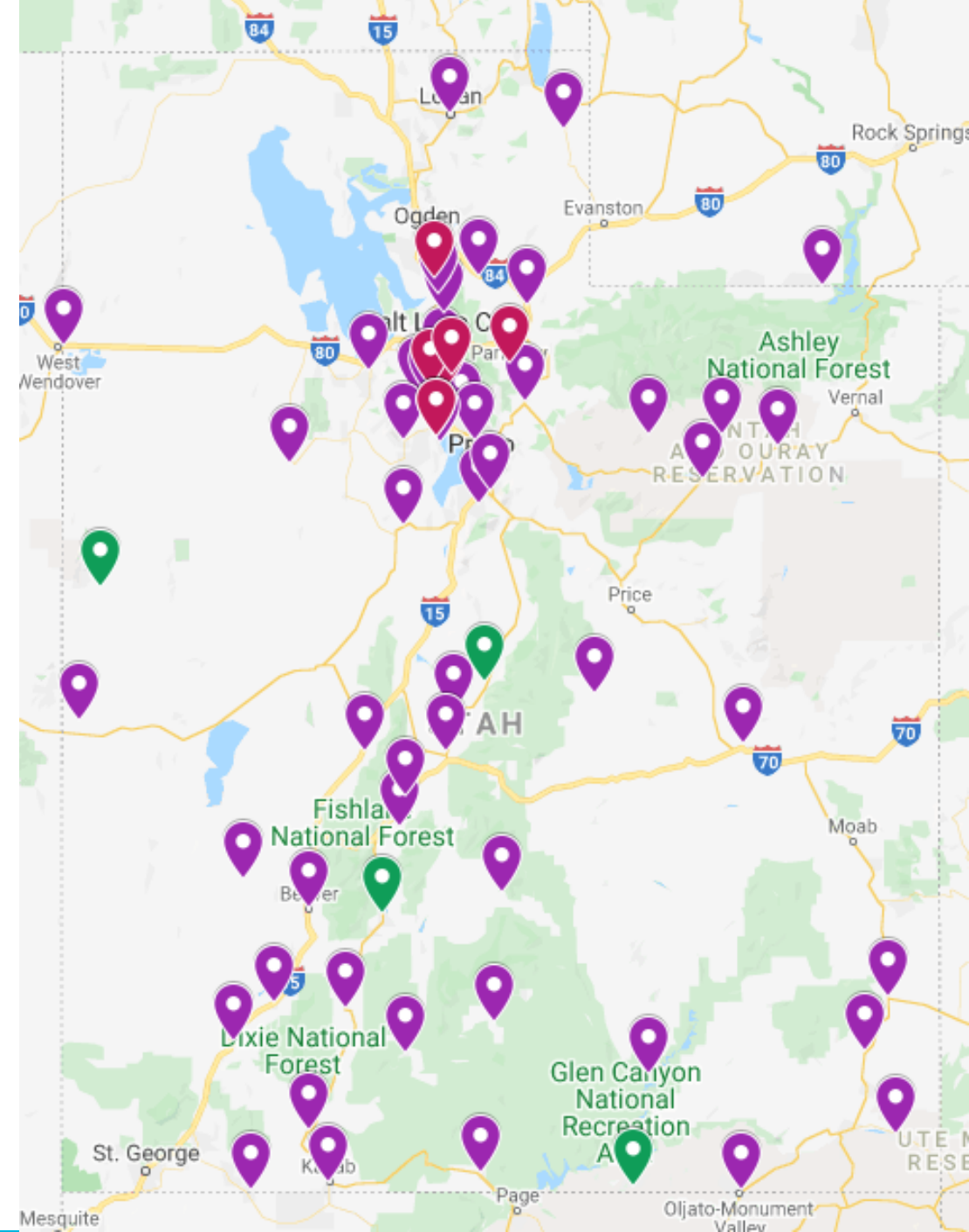
13 advisers serving  
**13** high schools in  
5 districts

## Phase I: 2021-22

48 advisers serving  
**51** high schools in  
21 school districts

## Phase II: 2022-23

60 advisers serving  
**86** high schools in  
35 school districts



# Goals for 2021-22

FAFSA Completion: **43%** (+5% statewide)

College Applications: **77%**

1:1 Meetings: **73%**

Family Engagement: **30%**

FAFSA Assistance: **42%**





“When a parent comes in asking about FAFSA, all I have to say is, “let me send you to our college access advisor,” and the parents have an expert to talk to about it.”

*Rhonda Brinkerhoff, Registrar  
Snow Canyon High School*

“I believe this program is exceptional in bridging the gap for first generation, low income, and underrepresented students.”

*Ashlie McDonald, Counselor  
Dixie High School*

“I’ve been working with a student since the beginning of the year who said they never imagined they would be able to attend college. **But now it’s happening!** This student says without the information and support I provided, they wouldn't be where they are today. It's so great to see students' eyes light up with new possibilities!

*Jesse Schmid, Access Adviser  
Ridgeline High School*