



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

TAB F

February 18, 2022

## Debrief Silicon Slopes Workforce/Talent Solutions Discussion

In January, Talent Ready Utah arranged for a panel of representatives from the technology sector to talk to the Board of Higher Education about industry challenges and opportunities as the private sector connects to and works with higher education students and faculty. The goal is to make sure we connect workforce with our talent pipeline and verify the alignment of programs with current industry practices. The panel had representation from the following companies:

Will Clive – Pluralsight

Todd Taylor – Adobe

Erin Casale – Qualtrics

Derek Adams – Brainstorm

The group emphasized the importance of a diverse workforce with experience. Industry certifications were discussed, and the panel talked about the value of applied learning and the need for project-based instruction. When asked about challenges in placing technical education students, the panel pointed to the need for industry awareness and relationships. The group discussed the alignment of instruction with K12, so students are in a pipeline to get the education and experience needed to enter industry.

Vic Hockett, the Director of Talent Ready Utah, said he will continue to work with private sector partners across the state to make sure we are looking at the needs of each region to close the gap between workforce and education.

The healthcare industry sector will be covered in the March board meeting.

### Commissioner Recommendation

Information item only; no action required.