



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB B

August 19, 2022

Equity Resolution Highlights: HB144 Standardization and Expect the Great

Utah's higher education landscape continues to see significant structural and systemic gaps reflected in postsecondary enrollment and completion rates when disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status¹. Contextualized through the [USHE Equity Lens Framework](#), these gaps are a product of inequitable system and institutional policies, practices, and procedures that if left unmitigated will impact students and communities as well as Utah's future workforce.

At the direction of the Board, and its adoption of the [Resolution to Advance Equitable Systemic Change](#), a series of additional resolutions aimed at closing postsecondary enrollment gaps by race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, citizenship status, and socioeconomic status was created. Since 2020, the Board has championed three resolutions to affirm and support [Undocumented, DACAmented, Dreamer Students](#); [African, African American, Black students](#); and most recently, [LGBTQ+ students](#). All resolutions come with action items and charges for the system office and its 16 institutions that align with the [Board's 5-YR Strategic Plan](#).

This presentation will provide informational item updates for several initiatives tied to Board equity resolutions:

- Laís Martinez, Assistant Commissioner for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at USHE will speak on institutional commitment to Native/Indigenous students
- Andy Young, Director of Admissions Operations at Weber State University will speak on the impact of simplifying and standardizing HB-144²
- Raquel Cetz, Interim Dream Center Director at the University of Utah will speak on the urgent need for action to support undocumented students due to the possible rescinding of DACA³
- Daneka Souberbielle, Associate Provost and Chief Diversity Officer for Southern Utah University will share the newly created [Expect the Great](#) Charter

Each Board resolution has been championed by the support of institutional senior leadership, most notably the Chief Diversity Officers, Senior Student Affairs Officers, and Chief Academic Officers working in collaboration with the Dream Centers, African Diaspora Centers, and LGBTQ+ Centers. The system office has purposefully and meaningfully engaged campus, student, staff, and community stakeholders, who may be affected by this potential course of action by hosting consortia group meetings and providing an opportunity for input and feedback. The Office of the Commissioner leans on the expertise of institutional leadership and ongoing efforts to create resolutions that support structural and sustainable change for students, staff, and faculty from marginalized identities and backgrounds.

Commissioner's Recommendation

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

¹ [A New Look at Utah's Growing Opportunity Gap](#) (Martinez & Mayne, 2020)

² <https://educate-utah.org/hb144-facts/>

³ [Appeals court hears arguments to end DACA](#) (July, 2022)