

November 6, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Report to Legislature on the New Century and Regents' Scholarships

Background

The Utah State Board of Regents administers two scholarship programs established by the Legislature. The New Century Scholarship was created in 1999 as a Governor's initiative to encourage students to accelerate their education by earning an associate degree in high school or by pursuing a math and science curriculum. The Regents' Scholarship was an initiative of the State Board of Regents in 2008 to encourage Utah High School students to prepare academically and financially in grades 9-12 for college by completing a defined course of study, meeting minimum GPA, specific course grade and ACT requirements.

Issue

The Education Interim Committee of the Legislature requires an annual report of the New Century and Regents' Scholarships. This report was presented at their October meeting. Since the report was compiled, the 2013 award cycle has closed and final numbers are now available, so the attached report has been updated for your information. In summary, the New Century Scholarship applications remained flat and recipients decreased by 22 percent. Further, 1,962 new students qualified for the Regents' Scholarship, an increase of 45 percent from the previous year. Also of note, more than two thirds (70%) of those who qualified for the base award qualified for the exemplary award (which requires a higher GPA and ACT score). Additionally, while only 13% of recipients also qualified for the UESP savings match, there was a 44 percent increase from 2012 recipients. In the Regents' budget request, it is estimated \$6,000,000 in new money will be necessary to fully fund new 2014 recipients and those students with continuing eligibility for both programs. Budget estimates will be updated in February 2014 taking into account application growth, and the budget request will be modified as needed during the legislative session.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item, no action is required.

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David L. Buhler  
Commissioner of Higher Education

DAB/MMK  
Attachment

## Overview of Scholarships

The Utah State Board of Regents administers two scholarship programs established by the Legislature: the New Century Scholarship and Regents' Scholarship.

### New Century Scholarship

The New Century Scholarship was created in 1999 as a Governor's initiative to encourage students to accelerate their education by earning an associate's degree in high school or by pursuing the Math and Science Curriculum. Students qualify by earning an associate's degree at a Utah System of Higher Education institution with a 3.0 GPA by the date they graduate from a Utah high school with a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average. Students who are home schooled or complete high school through an on-line institution must take the ACT exam by June 15 of the year their peer group graduates from high school with a minimum score 26. The New Century Scholarship Award is a flat dollar amount and the maximum amount a recipient may receive is \$1,250 per semester, renewable for up to 60 credits or four semesters, whichever is first. The scholarship may be used at a four-year public college or university within the Utah System of Higher Education, as well as at Brigham Young University and Westminster College.

### Regents' Scholarship

The Regents' Scholarship was created to encourage Utah high school students to prepare for college academically and financially. It was established by the Utah Legislature in 2008 and requires completion of defined courses of study during grades 9-12 and saving for college.

- The Base Award is a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 for students who complete a core course of study, meet a minimum GPA, minimum grades on specific courses, and ACT requirements.
- Students qualify for the Exemplary Achievement Award by having no grade lower than a "B" in the required classes, at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA, and a composite ACT score of 26. The Exemplary Award is a flat dollar amount and the maximum amount a recipient may receive is \$1,250 per semester, renewable for up to 65 credits or four semesters (whichever is first).
- The Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) Supplemental Award is available for students who earn the Base Award and who have contributed to a UESP account during ages 14-17. The award consists of a maximum of \$100 per year for each \$100 contributed to their account.
- The scholarship may be used at any public college or university in the Utah System of Higher Education, as well as at Brigham Young University, LDS Business College and Westminster College.

## Administration of the Scholarships

Administering these two scholarships is labor intensive requiring significant oversight and review of specific courses and grades received on scholarship applications. In August of 2013 a new scholarship unit was launched with a specific focus on improving quality and customer service. Six employees are involved in administering the two programs including overseeing the policies, communications, review process, school relations and educational outreach, with a portion of the costs paid out of the scholarship appropriation.

## **Funding for 2013-14 College Academic Year**

Although additional one-time dollars were allocated for these two scholarship programs for FY 14 it was not enough to fully fund recipients qualifying for the New Century Scholarship, and Regents' Scholarship Exemplary Academic Achievement award for the 2013-14 college academic year. The award was reduced from \$1,250 per semester to \$1,100 per semester. The Regents' Scholarship Base one-time award of \$1,000 and the UESP match were fully funded.

Since 2010 as required by law, all materials and communications to prospective applicants and recipients state the awards amounts are determined on an annual basis and are subject to legislative funding and the total number of qualified participants. Further, it is communicated that award amounts may be reduced, may vary from year to year, and are dependent on when the recipient is enrolled in college.

## **Legislative Changes**

During the 2013 Legislative Session, changes were made to both the New Century and Regents' Scholarship programs to align with the Board of Regents Completion Initiatives. As of Fall semester 2013 all students participating in these programs are required to enroll in and successfully complete 15 credits and earn a 3.3 GPA each semester in order to retain eligibility.

## **Look Ahead**

It is estimated that \$6,000,000 in new money will be necessary to fully fund new 2014 awardees and those continuing recipients with remaining eligibility. In 2013 new applications for the Regents' Scholarship grew by 30% and qualified recipients increased by 46% over 2012. New Century's applications remained flat and recipients decreased by 20%. The budget estimate is based on the number of students with remaining eligibility from 2010-13, deferral and leave of absence return dates, and expected new student recipient growth for the 2014 cycle based on 2013 growth. Budget estimates will be updated in February 2014 taking into account applications for the next cycle which are due February 3, 2014.

## **Conclusion**

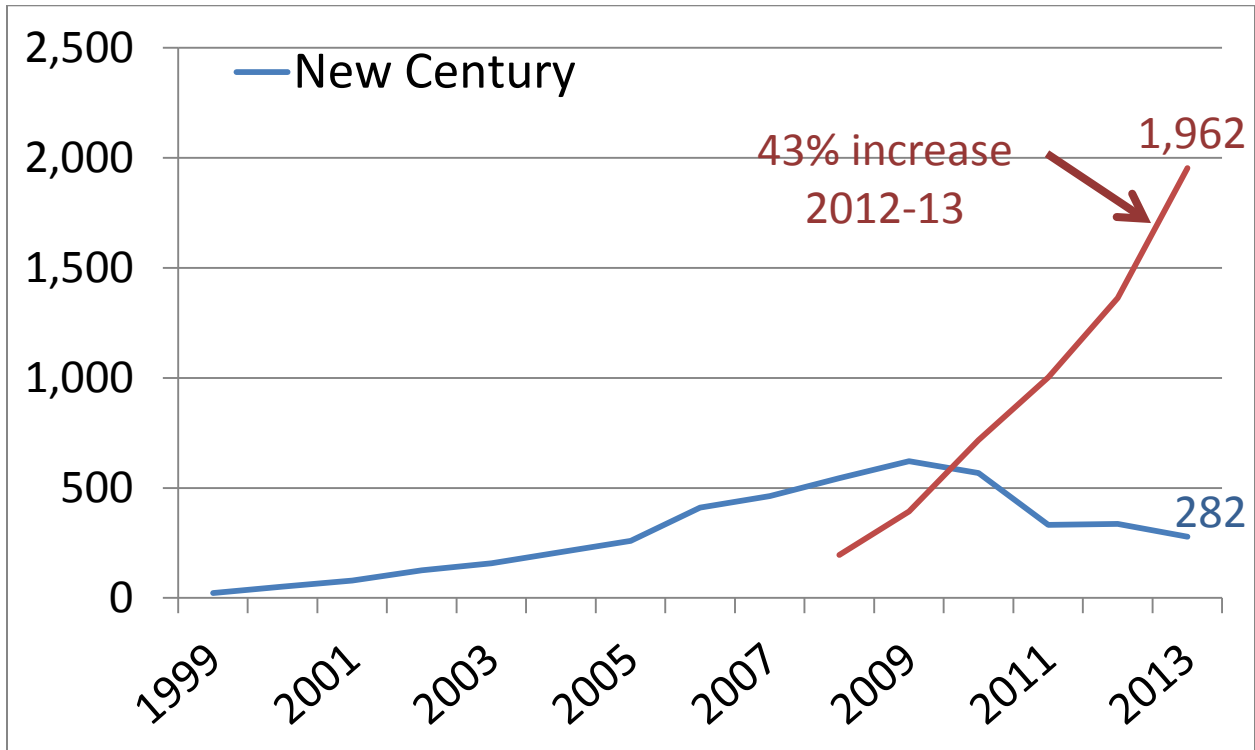
The Utah State Board of Regents appreciates the on-going legislative support of scholarships that encourage students to make good use of all four years of high school and better prepare for college and career. The Regents' and New Century Scholarships are provided in cooperation with the state's Step Up to Higher Education efforts. The StepUp campaign is a social awareness campaign, paid for and made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the College Access Challenge Grant. The campaign encourages all Utah youth to dream big about their futures, and then act on those dreams by preparing for and completing college. StepUp provides tips, tools, and resources on preparing and paying for college so obtaining higher education can be a reality for all Utahns. The Board endorses such programs that support the statewide goal for 66% of Utahns to hold a postsecondary degree or certificate by the year 2020.

## Side By Side Comparison New Century and Regents' Scholarship Programs



Program	New Century Scholarship	Regents' Scholarship
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created in 1999</li> <li>One award</li> <li>Purpose: Encourage students to complete college in less time than peers and enter the workforce more quickly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created in 2008</li> <li>Three Awards: Base Award, Exemplary Academic Achievement Award, and the Utah Educational Savings Plan Supplemental Award</li> <li>Purpose: Encourage students to prepare for college academically and financially through course-taking patterns and saving for college</li> </ul>
<b>Basics To Qualify</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earn an associate's degree or complete a focused Math and Science curriculum by high school graduation</li> <li>College 3.0 GPA and High School 3.5 GPA</li> <li>26 ACT requirement for home school students</li> <li>U.S. Citizenship requirements</li> <li>No criminal record</li> <li>Application Deadline: February 1</li> <li>Final Verification Document Deadline: September 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the Utah Scholars Core Course of Study during grades 9-12 (see our website for classes that will satisfy the scholarship requirements)</li> <li>Minimum Grade and overall GPA Requirements                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Base = "C" individual grades, 3.0 GPA</li> <li>Exemplary = "B" individual grades, 3.5 GPA</li> </ul> </li> <li>ACT Requirements                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Base = submit a score</li> <li>Exemplary = submit a minimum score of 26</li> </ul> </li> <li>U.S. Citizenship requirements</li> <li>No criminal record</li> <li>UESP Award: to maximize, contribute \$100+ each year of the following years of age: 14, 15, 16, 17</li> <li>Application deadlines:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority Deadline: Announced Yearly</li> <li>Final Deadline: February 1</li> <li>Note: Students who are found "on-track" for the scholarship after the initial review, must submit final verification documents by July 1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Award Information For The 2011-2012 College Academic Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The New Century Award is a flat dollar amount                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum award will be \$1,250 a semester</li> <li>Can be renewed for up to 4 semesters</li> </ul> </li> <li>Can be used at USHE institutions that grant bachelor's degrees, plus BYU and Westminster</li> <li>Students cannot receive both New Century and the Regents' Scholarship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Base Award is a one-time award worth up to \$1,000</li> <li>The Exemplary Award is a flat dollar award                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum award will be \$1,250 a semester</li> <li>Can be renewed for up to 4 semesters</li> </ul> </li> <li>Can be used at USHE institutions plus BYU, Westminster and LDSBC</li> <li>Students cannot receive both New Century and the Regents' Scholarship</li> </ul>
Award amounts are determined on an annual basis and are subject to legislative funding and the total number of qualified participants. Therefore, award amounts may be reduced, may vary from year to year and are dependent on when the recipient is enrolled in college.		
<b>Renewing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students must enroll in and successfully complete 15 credits fall and spring semesters (or receive an approved leave of absence) and earn a 3.3 GPA each semester that they utilize the scholarship</li> <li>Student must submit proof of meeting enrollment and minimum GPA requirements by set deadlines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students must enroll in and successfully complete 15 credits fall and spring semesters (or receive an approved leave of absence) and earn a 3.0 GPA each semester that they utilize the scholarship</li> <li>Student must submit proof of meeting enrollment and minimum GPA requirements by set deadlines</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Information</b>	Phone: 801-321-7221 Email: <a href="mailto:newcentury@ushe.edu">newcentury@ushe.edu</a> Web: <a href="http://higher.utah.gov">higher.utah.gov</a> New Century webpage: <a href="http://newcenturyscholarship.org">newcenturyscholarship.org</a>	Phone: 801-321-7159 Email: <a href="mailto:regentsscholarship@ushe.edu">regentsscholarship@ushe.edu</a> Web: <a href="http://higher.utah.gov">higher.utah.gov</a> Regents' Scholarship webpage: <a href="http://regentsscholarship.org">regentsscholarship.org</a>

## Scholarship Awards



## New Century Scholarship Application and Review Cycle



## Historical Recipient Overview

Graduate Year	Number of Approved Applications
1999	23
2000	52
2001	79
2002	125
2003	157
2004	208
2005	259
2006	413
2007	471
2008	544
2009	622
*2010	568
**2011	332
2012	347
2013	282

\*2010 is the first year with an application deadline. \*\*2011 is the first year that applicants must complete an associate degree by the time they graduate from high school (instead of by September 1 following high school graduation) and maintain a 3.5 cumulative high school GPA.

**2013 New Century Scholarship Awards by School District  
As of September 26, 2013**

District	# of Awards
Alpine District	79
Beaver District	1
Cache District	3
Canyons School District	6
Davis District	27
Granite District	4
Iron District	36
Jordan District	53
Millard District	1
Murray District	2
Nebo District	12
North Summit District	2
Ogden District	2
Piute District	1
Provo District	3
Rich District	7
San Juan District	3
South Summit District	7
Tooele District	2
Wasatch District	2
Washington District	19
Weber District	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>284</b>

## Regents' Scholarship Application and Review Cycle



## Historical Recipient Overview

Awards	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*	% Change from 2012
Base Only	73	74	201	296	398	535	34%
Base and Exemplary	102	214	448	583	788	1181	50%
Base and UESP Supplemental	7	41	14	26	35	49	40%
Base, Exemplary, and UESP	14	65	55	97	127	198	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>46%</b>

\*As of October 29, 2013



**2013 Regents' Scholarship Cohort Applications and Award Information**  
**As of November 7, 2013**

District	Applications	Non-Eligible	Base Only	Base and UESP	Base and Exemplary	Base, Exemplary and UESP
Alpine	595	160	101	9	282	43
Beaver	5	1	3	0	1	0
Box Elder	70	21	18	2	26	3
Cache	114	41	16	1	50	6
Canyons	279	90	42	8	115	24
Charter	57	32	4	1	16	4
Daggett	1	1	0	0	0	0
Davis	355	101	64	7	156	27
Duchesne	3	0	0	0	3	0
Emery	7	1	0	0	5	1
Grand	2	1	0	0	1	0
Granite	166	57	27	2	67	13
Iron	8	2	1	0	5	0
Jordan	164	54	36	1	58	15
Juab	2	0	0	0	2	0
Kane	1	1	0	0	0	0
Logan	48	18	5	1	21	3
Millard	3	1	0	0	2	0
Morgan	18	2	2	0	11	3
Murray	10	1	0	0	5	4
Nebo	251	66	60	2	118	5
North Sanpete	6	3	0	0	3	0
Ogden	6	4	0	1	1	0
Park City	13	5	4	2	1	1
Private	39	23	3	2	10	1
Provo	64	16	9	1	32	6
Salt Lake	102	45	20	1	24	12
San Juan	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sevier	19	6	4	0	9	0
South Sanpete	21	6	4	0	10	1
South Summit	3	0	1	0	2	0
Tooele	43	10	10	3	14	6
Wasatch	69	31	11	1	21	5
Washington	218	52	70	2	81	13
Weber	70	18	20	2	29	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2833</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>198</b>