



Spencer J. Cox

Governor

## Declaration

**Whereas**, twenty-first-century jobs require an increasing amount of college education and training;

**Whereas**, a college education has been found to greatly influence one's success and well-being, resulting in a significant increase in lifetime earnings and overall quality of life;

**Whereas**, a more educated population has been correlated with reduced crime, increased rates of civic engagement, and improved public health;

**Whereas**, applying to college can significantly increase a student's probability of enrolling in college;

**Whereas**, those who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are more likely to attend and afford college;

**Whereas**, applying to and paying for college can be a barrier for students on their postsecondary path;

**Whereas**, as Utah's population becomes increasingly diverse, it is essential for underrepresented, first-generation, and low-income students to know they are college material and have a system of education that is striving to provide equitable and affordable access to college;

**Whereas**, Utah College Application Week and FAFSA Night events provide high school seniors across the state the opportunity to apply to college and for financial aid, with a particular emphasis on underrepresented, first-generation, and low-income students;

**Whereas**, Utah College Application Week and FAFSA Night events are hosted jointly each October in coordination with Utah colleges and universities and participating Utah high schools; and,

**Whereas**, these events provide the necessary support for Utah students to recognize the opportunities higher education holds for them and begin their journey;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare October 2021, as

**Utah College Application and Financial Aid Awareness Month**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Spencer J. Cox', written in a cursive style.

Spencer J. Cox  
Governor