



Spencer J. Cox

Governor

## Declaration

**Whereas**, 21<sup>st</sup> 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**, as Utah's population becomes increasingly diverse, it is more important than ever for Utah colleges to prioritize equitable and affordable access to college;

**Whereas**, it is essential for Utah students of all ages and life circumstances, including those from underrepresented groups, to know they can apply to and attend college;

**Whereas**, Utah College Access advisers support and guide students to apply to college, which can significantly increase a student's probability of enrolling in college;

**Whereas**, college planning tools, guides, and college discussions provide students with knowledge about technical colleges, two-year and four-year colleges and universities, as well as how to cover college costs;

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

Now, Therefore, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the great state of Utah, do hereby declare October 2022, as

## Utah College Application and Financial Aid Month



Spencer J. Cox  
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