



Spencer J. Cox

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, 21st-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 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 and in applying for financial aid, 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 students who are underrepresented, facing economic barriers or first-generation;

Whereas, Utah College Application Week and FAFSA Night events occur each year 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 state of Utah, do hereby declare October 2023 as

Utah College Application and Financial Aid Awareness Month



Spencer J. Cox
Governor