

## How can you make the most of this toolkit?

A college education is more important than ever before. Ninety-five percent of new jobs created since the Great Recession require a college education, yet only half of Utah's population has a college degree or high-quality certificate. ***Advocacy by the members of the Board of Regents, with their contacts, positions on other boards, is crucial to helping further the cause of higher education and making college accessible to every Utah citizen.***

This toolkit is designed to provide board members with short overviews of the Board's main initiatives and projects. The aim of this toolkit is to provide board members with talking points and basic information they can use to start the conversation advocating for higher education.

## Board Initiatives

### Academic and Student Affairs

#### *Transfer and articulation*

Utah's general education courses are highly coordinated and intended to seamlessly transfer among institutions in USHE, however, there is still room for improvement.

USHE is currently working on a new transfer website that will better help students understand what credit they already have and what USHE institutions that credit will transfer to. Streamlining this process will help students graduate sooner and spend less in tuition.

Since Utah is often ranked among the top states with a high population of those with some college but no degree, ensuring students can easily re-enter higher education or transfer to a different institution will help decrease the percentage of those with some college but no degree and help increase completion rates.

#### *Prior Learning Assessment*

The USHE Board of Regents Academic and Student Affairs Committee recently recommended approval of *R472 Credit for Prior Learning*, which will be voted on by the Board at the November 15th Board of Regents meeting.

This policy establishes the foundation by which public higher education institutions will provide students with opportunities to earn credit for prior learning by demonstrating competencies acquired through life experience.

## **Access and Affordability**

### *Utah College Advisor Corps*

The Utah College Advisor Corps places a recent college graduate full-time college access advisor in high schools to help connect students to the right educational opportunity for them, whether that means attending a traditional college or a technical college to earn a certificate, an associate degree, a bachelor's degree, or more. Advisors are available to every high school student, but they have a focus on supporting low-income and first-generation students.

The USHE Board of Regents aim to have a college access advisor in every high school in Utah by fall 2021 (contingent on legislative funding). This would be the first statewide college access advising program of its kind in the nation.

- 1 out of 3 high school students don't enroll in postsecondary education within 5 years of graduating high school
- 90% of Utah parents expect their children to attend college, but only 2/3 actually enroll.
- 86% of students and parents believe college is more important than it was 10 years ago; but only 50% believe college is accessible for everyone in Utah.
- Just one meeting with a college access advisor increases a student's likelihood of college enrollment by 13%.

### *Utah College Application Week (UCAW)*

Utah College Application Week, which takes place every year in October, provides every high school senior at partner schools across the state the opportunity to complete at least one college or university application during the school day with hands-on assistance from volunteers.

In 2019 UCAW expanded to 129 high schools, 19 middle/junior highs, and 17 elementary schools that span 35 school districts across the state. Last year, approximately 23,000 students participated in UCAW and completed more than 24,000 college applications.

### *State scholarships*

#### **Utah Promise Scholarship**

The Utah Promise Scholarship is the first-ever statewide needs-based scholarship program in Utah. It is available to recent high school graduates and adult learners at Utah's public colleges and universities, as well as Utah's public technical colleges.

The Utah Promise Scholarship will cover up to tuition and fees for up to two years and is patterned after Dream Weber and SLCC Promise. Recently the University of Utah and Snow College have also announced their own institutional promise scholarships.

### **T.H. Bell Education Scholarship (for future educators)**

The T.H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan Program transitioned to the T.H. Education Scholarship Program on July 1, 2019. Awards distributed prior to July 1, 2019, are forgivable loans and after July 1, 2019, are scholarships.

In order to receive the award, student must study education to be eligible. Prioritization of the scholarship is given first to first-generation students who intend to enter the teaching profession, second to those who intend to work in high-need fields, and third to all other applicants. The T.H. Bell Scholarship can be used at all public or private colleges in Utah that offer approved programs.

### **Workforce connection**

Building an educated workforce is essential to continue to meet the needs of Utah's fast-growing economy, and Career and Technical Education is a key ingredient. USHE institutions offer CTE programs in all regions of the state, working closely with local businesses and industry leaders to develop and deliver programs tailored to local workforce needs.

- Public higher education returns \$3 for every \$1 invested in increased income tax revenues.
- 24,472 students who graduated from Utah's public colleges and universities in 2016 collectively earned an estimated \$470 million more in increased wages in their first year of employment after graduation.
- During the 2017-18 school year, USHE institutions awarded over 22,000 degrees and certificates in high-demand fields: including, engineering, computer and information sciences and support services, health professions, and education.
- During the 2017-18 school year, USHE institutions awarded over 3,600 degrees and certificates in teaching and mental health professions.
- Bachelor's degree graduates earned 69% more than those with only a high school diploma.
- *Career and Technical Education*
  - Students who earned a one-year certificate saw their tuition investment of \$3,568 (SLCC) increase their wage return by 42%, or \$6,000 in one year.
  - 5,812 CTE credentials were awarded by USHE institutions in 2017-18.
  - 91%: overall job placement rate for recent USHE CTE graduates.

## **Efficiency**

### *Capital facilities*

Each year, the Regents re-evaluate the capital facilities needs of its institutions. This prioritization is conducted after an extensive evaluation process including project site visits, space inventories, and various scoring methods.

Regent policy *R741, Nondedicated Capital Project Prioritization Process* requires the regents to review state-funded capital development project requests and prioritize capital facility projects based on the most pressing and critical needs in the system.

### *Space Utilization*

The Board has adopted a space utilization policy to provide a systemwide standard for the effective utilization of classrooms and teaching laboratories as well as centralized scheduling and an annual reporting requirement.

## **Other board projects**

### **Concurrent Enrollment**

Students who earn college credit in high school are more likely to complete college. Utah benefits from one of the most expansive concurrent enrollment programs in the country.

CE provides an opportunity for prepared Utah high school junior and senior students—freshmen and sophomores by exception—to take college courses and earn both high school credit for graduation and college credit.

- One in three high school juniors and seniors enroll in at least one college course.
- In the June 2018 high school graduating class, 53% of the students had taken at least one concurrent enrollment course.
- By taking concurrent enrollment, USHE estimates students saved over \$48 million in tuition for 2017-18.

### **Higher education enrollment**

Utah's public colleges and universities continue to see student enrollment increases year after year. By 2027, USHE institutions will have an estimated growth of more than 57,000 students compared to 2015.

- Eight out of ten Utah high school graduates who enroll in college attend one of Utah's public colleges and universities.
- 91% of Utah high school graduates who continue on to post-secondary education stay in the state to attend one of Utah's public and nonprofit, private colleges and universities.
- Since 2011, USHE institutions have awarded 266,768 degrees and certificates.

- In 2018, 69.4% of the 2014 high school graduating class had enrolled in a USHE institution. USHE has set a goal to have 75% of the 2020 high school graduating class enroll within 5 years of graduation.

## Social Media Information

USHE social media accounts

- USHE Twitter: [@higheredutah](#)
- [USHE LinkedIn](#)
- Commissioner: [@USHECommr](#)
- [Commissioner LinkedIn](#)
- UtahFutures Twitter: [@UtahFutures](#)
- [UtahFutures Facebook](#)
- UtahFutures Instagram: [@utahfutures](#)

Frequently used #hashtags:

- #ushe
- #uted
- #utleg
- #utpol
- #highered
- #collegeaccess
- #FAFSA
- UCAW specific hashtags: #ucaw, #whyapply, #iapplied

Other social media accounts to follow

- College Advising Corps: [@AdvisingCorps](#)
- National College Access Network: [@collegeaccess](#)
- Utah College Advising Corps: [@adviseutah](#)
- Utah Education Network: [@uennews](#)
- Utah Public Schools (K-12): [@UTPublicEd](#)
- Utah Technical Colleges: [@UTechEDU](#)
- WICHE: [@wicheEDU](#)

## Commonly used acronyms

CE	Concurrent Enrollment
CTE	Career and Technical Education
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
UCAC	Utah College Advising Corps
UHEAA	Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority
WICHE	Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education