Utah Higher Education Facts

Public Colleges & Universities Educate Most of Utah's College Students

- eight public colleges & universities
- 179,871 students enrolled 2012-13 (80% of all college students in Utah)
- 31,339 credentials awarded in spring 2012 (75% of all credentials)
- enrollment projected to increase by 28% in next 10 years

Utah Colleges are Among Most Affordable

- third lowest in total cost to attend college
- lowest level of student debt (55% graduate with no debt)
- of those who borrow, average student debt ($17,227) is lower than national average ($26,600)
- lowest student loan default rate in US (2.3%)

Higher Ed Degree Holders Contribute More to Society (vs. High School Diploma)

- earn 52% more annually
- contribute three times more in state taxes
- are half as likely to be unemployed
- are less likely to be incarcerated or receive public assistance
- live healthier and happier lives

Higher Education Contributes to Utah's Economy

- $4.2 billion enterprise
- employs over 30,000 people (includes U of U Healthcare)
- 2/3 of state building inventory
- for every $1 of state tax funds spent on capital development, higher education generates $2.60 in non-state funds
- Utah Educational Savings Plan one of only four 529 plans to receive Morningstar Gold Rating (uesp.org)

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Higher Education in Utah is Efficient

- second in nation for fewest state dollars spent per degree
- total funding per student has decreased by $600 since 2008 (tax funds & tuition)

Higher Education Leverages Technology

- one in five students enrolls in an online course
- 49 degrees available entirely online (including 12 master's degrees)
- over 1,400 courses available online
- 2/3 of all students participate in technology-delivered instruction

Focus on College Preparation, Participation, & Completion

- Utah Scholars Initiative encourages students to take rigorous courses in high school, in order to be "college & career ready"
- number of students receiving Regents' Scholarship has increased 35% annually since 2008
- New Century Scholarship recognizes students who complete associate degree while in high school
- Completion Initiative encourages students to:
    - enroll in 15 credits each semester
    - complete General Education requirements early in college career
    - obtain associate degree along the way to bachelor's degree

Higher Education is Facing Challenges

- college enrollment is not keeping pace with population growth
- state funds have decreased from 67% per student to 49% since 2008
- Utah ranks 47th in state funding for need-based financial aid
- student use of Pell Grants has increased 92%, compared to 54% increase nationally
- additional state support is critical to reach 66% goal

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