

Engineering and Computer Science Initiative – Annual Report October 2012

The 2001 Legislature approved SB61: *Enhancements to the State Systems of Public and Higher Education*, sponsored by Senator Lyle Hillyard. This legislation established an Engineering and Computer Science Initiative within the Utah System of Higher Education with the intent to increase the number of students graduating from engineering, computer science, and related technology programs. To date, \$11.5 million of on-going funding plus \$10M of one-time funding have been appropriated to support this initiative, including \$2,500,000 of additional on-going funds that were appropriated during the 2012 legislative cycle for the 2013 fiscal year.

The following table gives a summary of the funding between FY 2002 and FY 2013.

Appropriated Funds*

Engineering and Computer Science Initiative Funding History 2002-2010			
Funds Appropriated			
Year	Ongoing	One time	Loan Forgiveness*
2001-02	1,000,000	2,500,000	500,000
2002-03	2,000,000	1,000,000	0
2003-04	500,000	0	50,000
2004-05	500,000	500,000	0
2005-06	1,500,000	500,000	0
2006-07	500,000	700,000	0
2007-08	3,000,000	2,000,000	0
2008-09	0	250,000	0
2009-10	0	2,000,000	0
2010-11	0	0	0
2011-12	0	0	0
2012-13	2,500,000	0	0
Total	11,500,000	9,450,000	550,000

Fiscal Year 2013 funds were allocated to institutions as follows:

USHE Engineering and Computer Science Initiative TIAB Proposed Funding Distribution					
	2012-2013				
	Faculty	Distance Learning	Scholarships	Technician	Total
University of Utah	600,000	400,000	150,000	36,000	1,186,000
Utah State University	270,000	170,000	100,000	0	540,000
Utah Valley University	370,000	0	50,000	0	420,000
Weber State University	88,000	0	0	86,000	174,000
Salt Lake Community College	72,000	0	0	78,000	150,000
Southern Utah University	0	30,000	0	0	30,000
Snow College	0	0	0	0	0
Dixie State College	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,400,000	600,000	300,000	200,000	2,500,000

The Engineering and Computer Science Initiative serves the objective to increase the number of engineering and computer science graduates in the State of Utah. Based on assessment by the Technology Initiative Advisory Board, the industry oversight committee responsible for making Initiative funding recommendations to the Utah State Board of Regents, the Engineering Initiative has been one of the most successful legislative efforts of the past decade. With participation among industry, higher education, and the state, the Initiative has proven to be a model program with strong accountability and demonstrable results.

During FY 2011, 1378 engineering degrees were awarded compared with 862 in 2000, and in computer science 584 compared to 513. The impact of the initiative dollars on increased degrees awarded for FY 2012 will be available in January 2013. Over the length of the Initiative, there has been a consistent increase in overall degrees awarded in the targeted areas. The Initiative has resulted in a positive cumulative impact for the state. It is believed that a modest investment of state dollars has made a significant difference for Utah.

* In 2001, SB 61 established a loan forgiveness fund to assist students in obtaining degrees in engineering and computer science. In 2009, SB105 changed the loan forgiveness program to a scholarship program for the purpose of recruiting, retaining, and training engineering and computer science and related technology students. Scholarship funds were part of the \$2,500,000 appropriated for FY2013.