



UCAT INTERNAL EFFICIENCIES

HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
STAFF: JILL L. CURRY

ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

As it states in its mission, the Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) is tasked with meeting the needs of Utah's employers for technically skilled workers by providing market-driven technical education to both secondary and adult students. In working toward this mission, UCAT aims to be responsive to the needs of employers in Utah. The UCAT system had 159 employer advisory committees in FY 2015. These committees help ensure that the programs offered are current and relevant. The needs of employers change over time and, as a result, the colleges must make changes internally to meet these needs. This issue brief highlights some of the internal changes made by the colleges in FY 2015 and/or FY 2016.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Bridgerland Applied Technology College (BATC):

BATC reduced human resource expenditures by replacing full-time, benefited positions with part-time, hourly positions in its Drafting and Farm and Ranch Management programs. These changes were due to natural attrition. BATC also closed its Dental Assisting Program at the Brigham City campus. Lastly, the college reduced its involvement with Vex Robotics trainings and competitions which were shifted to local high school instructors that have received mentoring from the college for the past three years.

BATC has saved \$233,200 from the above actions, in turn reinvesting these dollars in new instructors for its Composites and Automated Manufacturing and Robotics programs at the Brigham City campus. These positions were required to support employee training at Autoliv and ATK, and other manufacturing companies in Box Elder County. BATC also hired an instructional designer and dedicated new funds to operations and maintenance for expansion at the Brigham City campus. This expansion will provide additional facilities for both the Composites and Automated Manufacturing and Robotics programs.

Davis Applied Technology College (DATC):

In FY 2016 DATC reallocated budgets from its Plastic Injection Molding, ASL, and Registered Nursing programs, totaling \$234,350. These funds were used to add an Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing) Technician program and expand the college's Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technician, Dental Assisting, Emergency Services, Cosmetology, and Esthetics programs. Lastly, DATC created a new Evening School Facilitator position to better serve nighttime students.

Dixie Applied Technology College (DXATC):

At the end of FY 2015, DXATC closed its Office Management program and reallocated \$77,000 to open a new Digital Media Design program in FY 2016.

Mountainland Applied Technology College (MATC):

During FY 2016, MATC closed its Business Technology program in response to dwindling enrollment and decreasing employer demand, saving \$119,000. In response to local industry needs, these funds were applied to MATC's Web Programming and Information Technology initiatives to better prepare students for careers on the Silicon Slopes.

Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College (OWATC):

In FY 2016 OWATC's Instructional Services Division expanded services to secondary students utilizing existing resources. They reallocated \$40,000 to add robotics courses at Ben Lomond High School, automotive power technologies courses at Weber Innovation High School, and carpentry courses at Millcreek Youth Center.

Budget efficiencies are ongoing throughout the year. Utilizing monthly budgeting and outcome reporting details, the Instructional Services Division made internal shifts from multiple areas totaling \$137,000. These funds were used to purchase new computer labs for Computer Aided Design and Media Design students.

In the college's Student Services Division, one hourly position was eliminated through attrition, resulting in \$20,000 in savings. These funds were reallocated to a special projects budget benefiting the entire college. This fund purchased software licensing to enable paperless workflows, an employee evaluation tool, and another package to implement compliance with the Violence Against Women Act. The student records department was the first to pilot paperless processes in FY 2016, which improved service and reduced student traffic. This freed up half of the registrar's time, allowing this individual to participate in a new department that manages college data and records and implements similar time-saving workflows college-wide.

Southwest Applied Technology College (SWATC):

In FY 2015 SWATC made several changes to its Health Science programs to better align course offerings with industry needs. These changes required reallocation of Health Science resources within the department including instructors, teaching supplies, and equipment. Because these resources were reallocated within the same department, cost savings cannot be quantified.

Health Science program changes include merging the Certified Billing and Coding Specialist program with the Certified Coding Associate to create a new, 750-hour Billing and Coding Specialist program. The transition teach-out took place during FY 2015 and FY 2016. The Medical Assistant program was phased out to create a 785-hour Medical Office Administration program and a 990-hour Medical Clinical Assistant program. The transition teach-out took place during FY 2015 and FY 2016.

For FY 2017, SWATC shortened its Professional Truck Driving course from 240 hours to 180 hours to accommodate more students during the year. The college also decreased the CDL adjunct payroll by \$30,000 to help expand the Computer Science and Practical Nursing programs.

Tooele Applied Technology College (TATC):

TATC has experienced marked growth in its programs from FY 2015 to FY 2016, and consequently did not reallocate funds during those years.

Uintah Basin Applied Technology College (UBATC):

UBATC eliminated two positions from administrative budgets and two assistant shop positions. Other budgetary reductions were made in Operations and Maintenance, Student Services, Business and Health Occupations, totaling \$283,000. This money was repurposed for critical, ongoing equipment needs and to bolster growing programs with shortfalls, namely Certified Nursing Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Civil Technology, and Automotive Technology.