



66% GOAL

HIGHER EDUCATION
STAFF: SPENCER PRATT

ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

A couple of years ago, the State Board of Regents contracted with Anthony Carnavale, the Director and Research Professor of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, to conduct a study to determine the need for post-secondary education credentials in order to meet the needs of Utah employers in the future. His study determined that for the state’s future economic prosperity, 66% of the adults in the State should have some post-secondary degree or certificate. The Utah System of Higher Education, together with the Governor and business leaders from around the State have adopted this and have set the goal of meeting that criteria by the year 2020.

OBJECTIVE

The ultimate objective of the 66% Goal is to improve the economic prosperity of the State. A higher percentage of educated workers should attract new employers to the State and encourage new and current employers to increase hiring.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The State Board of Regents has requested, and the Governor has recommended, \$20 million in ongoing funding as the first step toward this goal. The Analyst recommends that the Subcommittee consider this initiative, should additional funding be allocated to it.

The Board of Regents indicates that a similar request (\$20 million) will be included in its annual budget request for the next several years. This first request will be focused in the following two areas:

- Increasing program capacity in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and health-related occupations for 4,500 new FTE students (\$15 million)
- Increasing student completion through targeted incentive participation and progress scholarships in STEM and health-related programs (\$5 million)

USHE institutions have also agreed to invest \$20 million internally toward these priorities through innovation, efficiencies, private funding, and tuition, which would focus a total of \$40 million toward this goal in FY 2014.

The proposed breakout for this funding is shown below:

University of Utah	\$5,740,000
Utah State University	3,830,000
Weber State University	2,295,000
Southern Utah University	995,000
Utah Valley University	2,815,000
Snow College	590,000
Dixie State College	900,000
Salt Lake Community College	2,745,000
State Board of Regents	<u>90,000</u>
TOTAL	\$20,000,000