



ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

HIGHER EDUCATION
STAFF: SPENCER PRATT

ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

During the 2001 legislative session, the Utah State Legislature passed Senate Bill 61, “Enhancements to the State Systems of Public and Higher Education” which, among other things, established an Engineering and Computer Technology Initiative. The purpose of the initiative was to increase program capacity for engineering, computer science, and related technology students, with the goal of doubling the number of graduates in these areas by 2006 and tripling the number by 2009.

The Legislature created the Technology Initiative Advisory Board to make recommendations to the State Board of Regents on the allocation and distribution of state appropriations. The board is also required to make an annual report to the State Board of Regents (53B-6-105.5).

The 2017 Legislature approved the following intent language in relation to the allocation of initiative funds:

The Legislature intends that the funds appropriated for the Engineering Initiative be allocated to institutions based on the increases in graduates from engineering, computer science, and technology degree programs since Fiscal Year 2014. The Legislature further intends that Engineering Initiative funds support undergraduate programs that meet workforce needs for the highest demand occupations. Recommendations for appropriation and follow up reporting on program success are to be reviewed by the Business, Economic Development, and Labor Appropriations Subcommittee and the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

The statute also requires that institutions match the appropriations on a one-to-one basis to qualify for the funds, and that these matching funds be reported to the board and be included in the board’s annual report.

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The Legislature has appropriated a total of \$162.2 million over the past 17 years since S.B. 61 passed. Currently there is \$19 million in ongoing funding for the Engineering Initiative, which is distributed to each of the eight USHE institutions. The following shows the funding history since the Initiative's inception.

<u>Year</u>	<u>One-time</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>
FY 2002	2,500,000	1,000,000
FY 2003	1,000,000	2,000,000
FY 2004		500,000
FY 2005	500,000	500,000
FY 2006	500,000	1,500,000
FY 2007	700,000	500,000
FY 2008	2,000,000	3,000,000
FY 2009	250,000	
FY2010	2,250,000	
FY 2011		
FY 2012		
FY 2013		2,500,000
FY 2014		
FY 2015		
FY 2016	1,000,000	3,500,000
FY 2017		
FY 2018		4,000,000