

# Utah System of Higher Education

Tuition waivers: A tool for affordable access and timely completion

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# 2025 Regent Strategic Plan

## Big picture goals

- Expand system capacity to serve 60,000+ additional students by 2025
- Increase the number of graduates to meet workforce demand

# 2025 Regent Strategic Plan

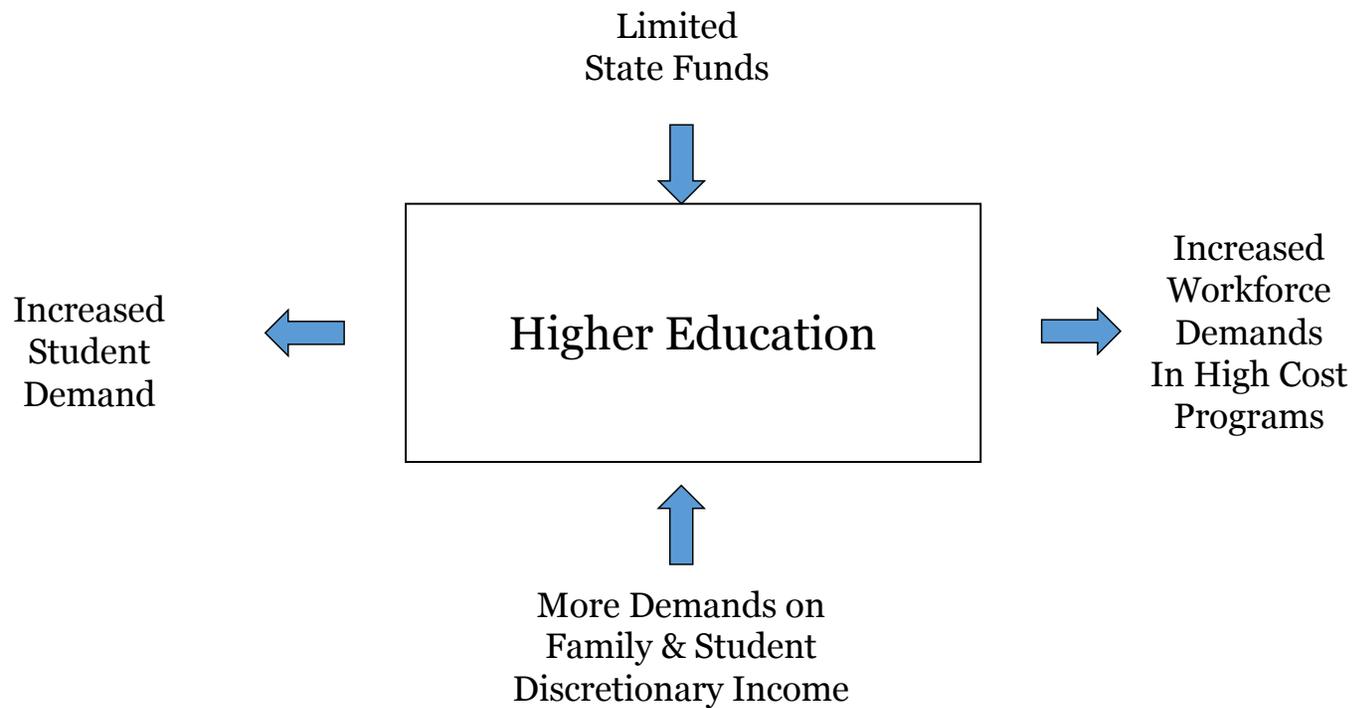
## Strategic objectives to meet the big picture goals:

- Affordable Access
- Timely Completion
- Innovative Discovery (research & best practices)
- Workforce Alignment

## Challenge we face to meet the big picture goals:

- Ensure that institutions have adequate resources to meet growing state, student, and industry expectations

# Higher education pressure points



# Increased student demand

Total budget-related FTE enrollment growth last 10 years: 19,870 (20% Increase)

Growth in New Students was 60% Resident and 40% Non-resident

10-year Resident Student Growth: 12,015

2006-07 Budget Related Annualized FTE			
	Residents	Non-residents	Total
UTAH*	21,996	3,945	25,941
USU	15,890	2,203	18,093
WSU	11,869	709	12,578
SUU	4,821	685	5,506
SNOW	2,553	287	2,840
DSU	3,513	347	3,860
UVU	13,022	1,487	14,509
SLCC	14,672	824	15,496
USHE	88,336	10,487	98,823

10-year Non-resident Student Growth: 7,855

2015-16 Budget Related Annualized FTE			
	Residents	Non-residents	Total
UTAH*	23,447	5,765	29,212
USU	16,977	4,423	21,399
WSU	12,960	1,436	14,396
SUU	5,465	1,364	6,829
SNOW	3,323	314	3,636
DSU	4,814	1,198	6,012
UVU	18,828	2,707	21,535
SLCC	14,537	1,136	15,673
USHE	100,351	18,342	118,693

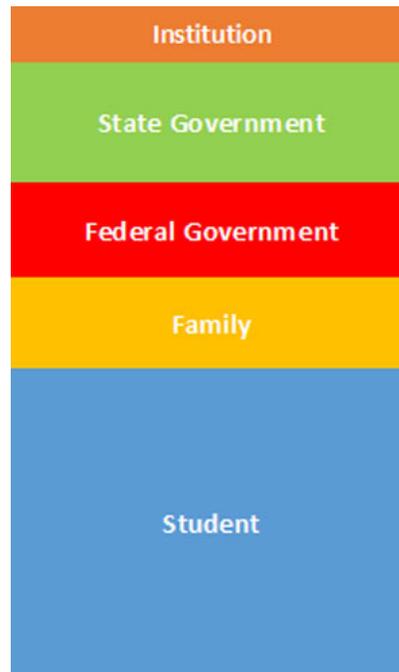
\*Utah enrollments include School of Medicine and Dentistry students

Data Source: USHE Data Book Tab C: Enrollments

# Paying for college is a “shared responsibility”

“The fourth partner is the state government, and the state grant aid program is expected to cover any unmet need after accounting for the other three partners’ shares.”

“A student’s family is the second partner; this is where the model becomes need-based. Families with more wealth are expected to contribute more to their children’s educations.”



“Finally, [newer iterations](#) of the shared responsibility model include institutions as a fifth partner.”

“The third partner is the federal government, which annually awards... grant aid and tax benefits to help families afford college.”

“Students, who benefit most from earning a credential, are expected to contribute a sizable portion to finance their education through working, personal savings, private scholarships or loans.”

# Affordable access efforts

What are we doing today to make higher education more affordable in Utah?

## For residents:

- Concurrent enrollment programs
- Tuition plateau schedules
- Gift Aid (Federal, State, and Institution)
  - 2014-15, 54% of Utah resident students received some type of grant aid
  - Average gift aid received covered 83-133% of the tuition costs
  - Scholarships and Tuition Waivers

## For non-residents:

- Scholarships and tuition waivers
  - Western Undergraduate Exchange tuition waivers
  - Alumni Legacy waivers
  - Non-resident merit waivers

# Scholarship vs. tuition waiver

## Student perspective:

- Scholarships and Waivers are the same (both are awards that reduce the amount of tuition that the student has to pay out of pocket)

## Institution perspective:

- Scholarships = real dollars paid to the institution on behalf of the student, these can be from 3<sup>rd</sup> party or institutionally funded
- Waivers = a discount/write off which reduces the amount paid by the student

# Tuition waivers awarded 2015-16

2015-16 All Students		
Institution	Total Tuition Waived	% Waived
UTAH	\$22,710,508	7.3%
USU	\$41,575,334	23.4%
WSU	\$13,164,218	16.0%
SUU	\$13,274,411	26.0%
SNOW	\$2,278,656	18.2%
DSU	\$7,342,226	21.9%
UVU	\$20,437,757	15.3%
SLCC	\$5,044,311	8.2%
USHE	\$125,827,421	14.5%

# 2015-16 Tuition waivers awarded by type

Discretionary (Merit & Need Based)

\$103,788,772

Entitlement

\$9,781,323

Targeted

\$23,640

Reciprocal Partnerships

\$12,233,687

# Statutory USHE tuition waivers

## **Discretionary Resident Waivers**

10% resident waivers

## **Discretionary Non-resident Waivers**

Meritorious non-resident undergraduates

Meritorious non-resident graduates

Summer non-resident

Non-resident transition

Legacy alumni awards\*

Non-resident athletics

## **Reciprocal Partnerships**

Dixie Good Neighbor\*

Border

Reciprocal

Western Undergraduate Exchange

## **Targeted**

Public School Teachers

Sequential Mandarin Chinese

Critical Occupations

## **Entitlement**

Resident National Guard Members

Military & Dependents

Fallen Military Dependents

Fallen Police & Firefighter Dependents

Senior Citizen

Wards of the State

Foreign Utah HS Graduates

Certain Utah HS Graduates

Purple Heart Recipients

*\*Approved by the legislature in 2009 – HB364 Border and Nonresident Student Amendments*

# Statutory purposes for non-resident waivers

1. Enhance educational opportunities for Utah Residents
2. Promote mutually beneficial cooperation and development of Utah communities and nearby communities in neighboring states
3. Contribute to the quality and desirable cultural diversity of educational programs
4. Assist in maintaining an adequate level of service and related cost-effectiveness of auxiliary operations
5. Promote enrollment of non-resident students with high academic aptitudes
6. Recognize legacy of past graduates and continued connection to their alma mater

# How do Utah's tuition waiver policies compare?

Comparison Group: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) states

- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

Most states have residency or tuition policies that address:

- **Military service:** (13 of 15 including Utah) allows active military personnel, spouse, and dependents residency status for tuition purposes. In addition, surviving spouse and dependents are eligible to receive a resident tuition waiver
- **Public safety:** (12 of 15 including Utah) allows law enforcement, firefighters, corrections, emergency services surviving spouse and dependents to receive a resident tuition waiver

# How do Utah's tuition waiver policies compare?

- Other common waivers
  - Senior citizens
  - Border or state reciprocal agreements
  - Meritorious
  - Need based
- Unique waivers that Utah offers
  - Public school teachers (tuition for licensing)
  - Children of alumni (nonresident portion)
  - Foreign nationals or non-immigrants who graduate from a Utah high school (nonresident portion)
  - Wards of state (up to nine semesters)
  - Athletic (fees and nonresident portion)

Source: WICHE State Higher Education Policy Database

# How do Utah's tuition waiver policies compare?

- Unique waivers that Utah does not specifically offer
  - State savings plan participant
  - Less than four credit hours
  - Visually impaired
  - Gender equity
  - Long-term unemployed or underemployed
  - Dependents of September 11, 2001
  - Underserved or disadvantaged
  - Native American tribe
  - Exonerated person and dependent
  - Noncredit courses
  - Graduate assistants

Source: WICHE State Higher Education Policy Database

# State Board of Regents

Focused on affordable access for Utah students

## Board discussion on tuition waivers

- July 2017
- September 2017

## Affordable access strategies – Next steps

- Examine and update USHE tuition and waiver policies
- Identify return on investment of non-resident tuition waivers to the state
- Increase Board and institution focus and efforts on need based student aid to help students complete in a more timely way
- Target use of tuition waivers to meet critical needs more effectively