

Perspectives on Long-Term Strategic Issues Facing Higher Education in Utah

Higher Education Strategic Planning Discussion

Harris Simmons, Chair, Utah State Board of Regents

Strengths in Utah Higher Education

- Lowest student debt, lowest % of students taking on debt
- 1/2 of Utah high school students take concurrent enrollment
...saving over \$41m in tuition
- 6 of 8 institutions are open-admission
- 3rd lowest tuition in the country (4 year)
- 112 certificates & degrees entirely online
- 45% of USHE students are enrolled in at least one of the 2,000 courses available online

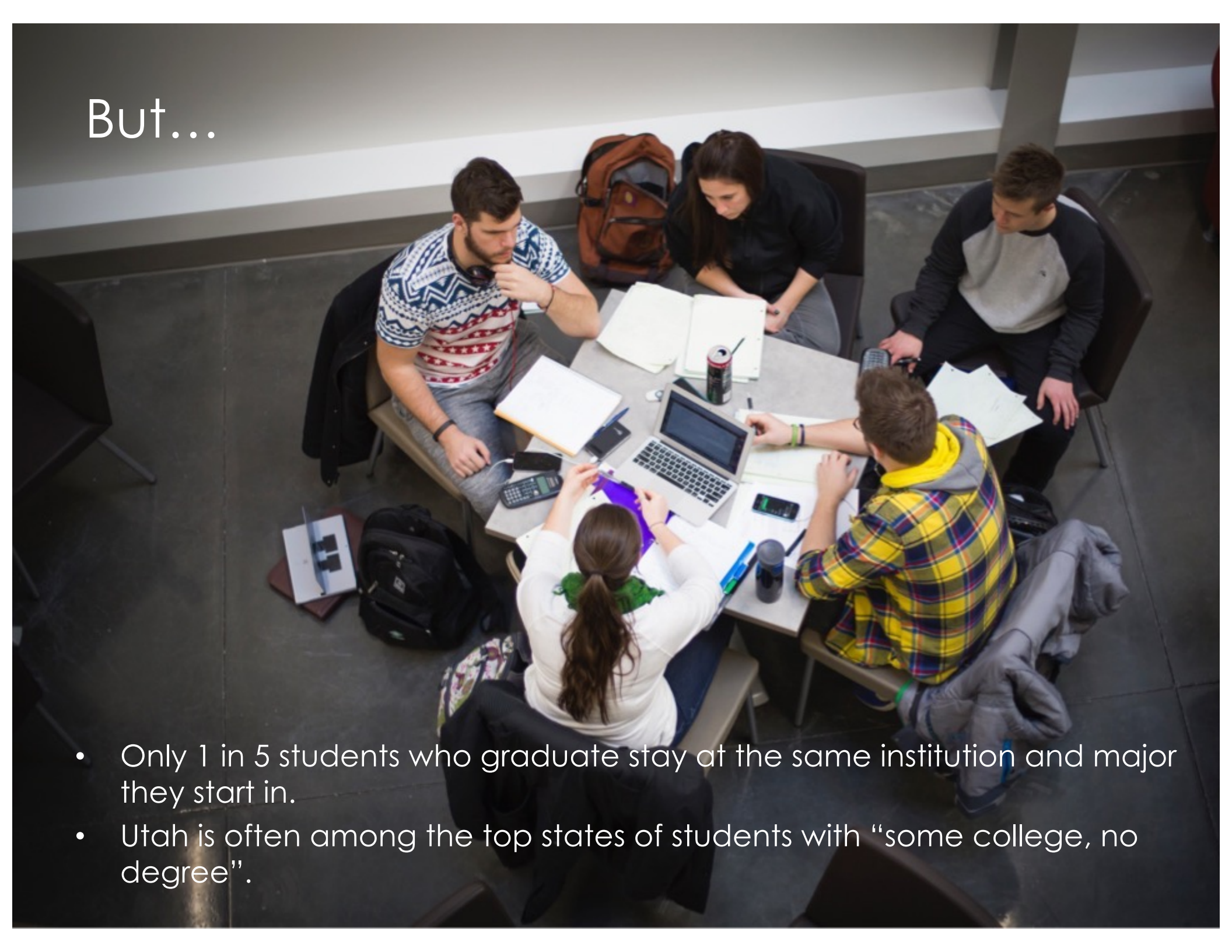
Strengths in Utah Higher Education



- Coordinated general education eases transfer of lower-division courses...for those well on their way to completing:
 - Example: 50% of students who start at SLCC finish at the UU

But...

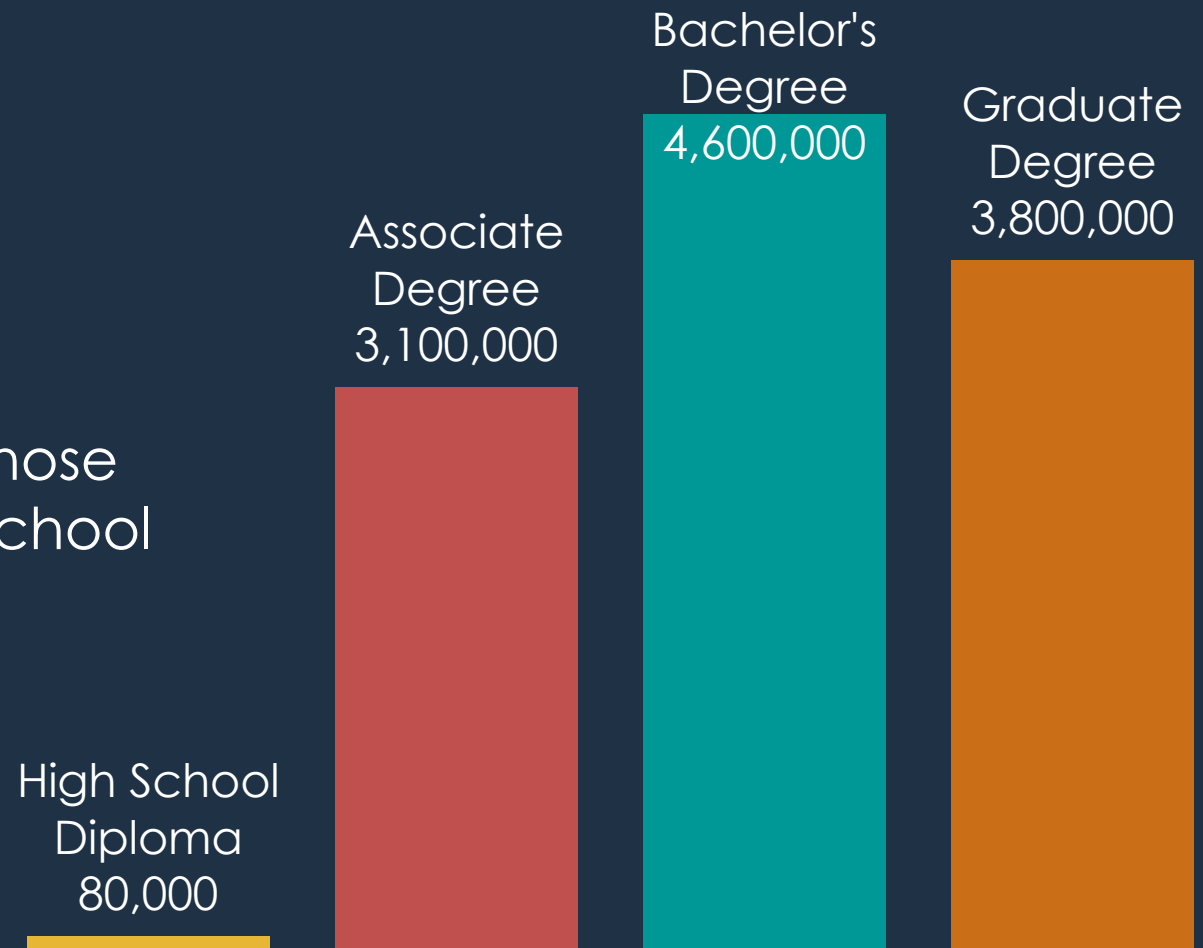
- Only 1 in 5 students who graduate stay at the same institution and major they start in.
- Utah is often among the top states of students with “some college, no degree”.



What about those who don't make it to college?

- First-generation students
- Low-income
- Ethnic minorities

99% of job growth since recession has gone to those with more than a high school education.



Board of Regents Strategic Vision

Increase the educational attainment of Utahns to enhance their overall quality of life, and to meet Utah's current and future workforce needs.



Our students

With students...

- more financially vulnerable than previous generations
- more price sensitive to higher education prices
- working more as they attend college

...They need

- seamless onboarding from high school to college
- the right information to understand the return on their college investment



Our students

Today's students are changing, tomorrow's students even more:

- People change career tracks more often than ever
- Leading to more stops, starts, and part-time college enrollment
- Working and returning students are becoming the new normal
- Faster cycles in today's economy mean colleges are becoming engines of lifelong learning



Capacity

- Utah is one of only a few states with a growing student population
- USHE will add the equivalent of WSU, DSU, SUU in 10 years
- We are already dealing with limited capacity and outdated facilities for high demand programs, especially in STEM and healthcare

Lifelong learning



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