

January 31, 2019

Dear Legislators and Agency Partners,

The Board of Regents supports the UtahFutures mission under the current management of the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN). The functionality in UtahFutures is the only platform equitably available to *all* Utah students for college and career information.

When UtahFutures first began in 2009, it was conceived as a single “go to” platform for college and career readiness. While promising, it didn’t achieve its potential in its initial years as the lead partner agency changed hands several times. From 2009-2015, several agency and legislative efforts since its inception have led to a distracted focus. As a result, other platforms (such as StepUpUtah.com and TalentReady.org) emerged.

In 2015, Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) was legislatively mandated to lead the platform. Since that legislative action, UETN has improved the product significantly. Most notably, UETN has established a disciplined management approach that has resulted in:

- Increased usage (112% since 2016).
- Improved usability via robust 3rd party tools (25% increase in user time on website 2017 to 2018).
- Decreased operational costs by 20%.

UETN has also demonstrated its ability to seek improved functionality while driving cost efficiencies. In 2018, The Board of Regents, as part of a strategy to demonstrably improve access to college information to Utahns, decided to streamline its own outreach efforts by migrating its online outreach resources to the UtahFutures platform (Concurrent Enrollment, StepUp, Scholarship applications, etc.). The Board also adopted, as one of its Workforce Development priorities, “Launch My Career”, an app currently in use in more than a dozen states that localized career and wage functionality, scheduled for launch in early 2019. This added functionality, along with the popular career exploration tool called Sokanu, are key to the support of the Board’s keystone initiative to establish a college advisor for every high school in Utah.

A state-sponsored platform is a proven concept. UtahFutures is a cost-efficient, integrated, “one-stop” platform for college and career readiness. No viable alternative to UtahFutures currently exists, no other platform provides the reach or functionality that UtahFutures provides to *all* Utah students.

Sincerely,



David L. Buhler, PhD.
Commissioner of Higher Education