

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Higher  
Education  
Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
*May 27, 2020*

Salt Lake  
Community  
College

The logo for Salt Lake Community College, featuring a stylized globe or sphere composed of three interlocking loops in blue, yellow, and red.

# Utah's community colleges



- Serving Salt Lake County
- 31,727 annual headcount
- 54% first generation
- 20,000 annual non-credit training
- 31% identifying as minority
- Second lowest tuition in the state



- Serving 6 of the most rural counties
- 5,592 headcount
- Lowest tuition in the state
- Economic engine for the region: only option for training in Central Utah
- 57% low income

# Fundamentals of our roles and mission

- Open access for all who want a certificate or degree
- Low tuition
- Nimble offerings to respond to workforce needs
- Affordable, quality first two years of baccalaureate degree
- Disproportionate service to low income, first generation students
- Short term, industry-specific credentials designed to get people back to work
- Locally accessed; financially and physically accessible

# Our role in preserving educational opportunity and getting people back to work

“Community colleges are explicitly designed to offer a second chance to millions of Americans, especially those facing challenges such as unemployment and economic hardship. **These second-chance institutions are an undeniably crucial part of our nation’s recovery from the pandemic...**when the Great Recession hit, community colleges absorbed half of all growth in college enrollment.”

*Source: Goldrick-Rab, Sara. “America Sabotaged the Solution to Its New Higher-Education Crisis.”  
The Atlantic, May 22, 2020*

# UTAH 3.0 strategic investment options

Utah can accelerate recovery by providing rapid training opportunities and new investment in needed Utah infrastructure.

In keeping with the guiding principles of (1) speed, (2) targeted, (3) permanent benefit, and (4) innovative, we recommend the state invest in this population **by providing training-ready education programs** and construction-ready infrastructure projects.

**Proposal:** Make a strategic investment in **rapid re-skilling and up-skilling of training-ready programs**. These short-term, job-focused investments will enable Utahns to work and compete in a changing economy.

**Focus on certificates, technical programs, and one-year graduate degrees.**

# UTAH 3.0 strategic investment options

## Rural Utah:

Develop new products by increasing broadband connectivity for tele-solutions, preparing rural Utah real estate and workforce for re-shoring opportunities, strengthening rural Utah's ability to export through enhancing its infrastructure, **and ensuring rural Utahns have access to affordable housing, educational opportunities, and economic mobility.**

# Impacts of budget cuts on community colleges

2%

- Reductions in academic and administrative operational costs
- 8 full-time positions (faculty, student support)

# Impacts of budget cuts on community colleges

5%

- Reductions in academic and administrative operational costs
- 15 full-time positions (faculty, student support, advising)
- Significant impact to completion efforts and state-wide attainment goals
- Reductions in scholarships



# Impacts of budget cuts on community colleges

10%

- Reductions in academic and administrative operations costs
- 97 full-time positions (faculty, staff, advisors, administrative and technical support)
- Significant disruption to student completion, attainment goals and college operations
- Reductions in scholarships

# Higher ed: A key investment for recovery

“The United States economy is in free fall. Businesses have closed and people have been laid off. Unemployment could reach 30%, and if it does there are predictions that an additional 15% of the population will fall into poverty. Inequality will grow mightily with significant impact on disadvantaged groups...

What will the near- and long-term post-coronavirus economy look like, including the transitional period to some form of new normal?

**One conclusion seems reasonable: Americans will generally need greater access to higher education and vocational training programs**, not less, even if it includes a more online, more socially distant experience.”

*Source: Douglass, John Aubrey. “Higher Education is Key for the Post-COVID Recovery.” University World News. April 25, 2020.*