



State of Utah

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To: Education Interim Committee
Sen. Deidre M. Henderson, Senate Chair
Rep. V. Lowry Snow, House Chair

From: Jon Pierpont

Subject: Utah Data Research Center Research Agenda Update

In response to SB194, passed in the 2017 Legislative Session, I am providing you with an update on the activities and current research agenda of the Utah Data Research Center (UDRC).

In its third year, our department has significantly enhanced the technological infrastructure built in the second year. This includes the development of: Utah Department of Health birth and death certificates integration, improved identity matching algorithm, and a significantly more robust work flow process. In the coming year, the UDRC will be transitioning to a cloud based infrastructure which will allow for expanding capabilities and scalability.

In addition to the technological infrastructure, the UDRC has also completed the following 2019 research agenda items along with their complementary data narratives: Return on Investment of Career and Technical Education Provided by UTech, The Academic Success of Utah's Working College Students, and In-State Workforce Retention of Utah's Postsecondary Graduates. Final drafts for the following research projects: Increased Spending from Post-Secondary Graduates in Utah (2011 – 2018), Intrastate Migration of Post-Secondary Institution Enrollees in Utah were completed. Finally, the UDRC is in the process of working on research projects for Intergenerational Poverty, Impact of Child Care, and the Gender Wage Gap. All currently completed research can be found at <https://udrc.utah.gov/products.html>

UDRC has also developed the 2020 research agenda. Partner agencies and other primary customers of UDRC were surveyed for input on priority research questions. UDRC staff, with the input of the UDRC Advisory Board, then prioritized those research questions. The resulting research agenda can be found at <http://udrc.utah.gov/research.html>.

During the upcoming year, UDRC researchers' efforts will be focused on the 2020 research agenda and enhancements to the technological infrastructure. UDRC will ensure that all completed work is made available through the website in a timely manner so that progress can be tracked on a real-time basis.

If you have any questions or would like further information on UDRC's progress, please contact me or the UDRC Director: Collin Peterson, collinpeterson@utah.gov.