

# Student Workforce Readiness Initiative

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## Requester Information

**Legislator: Vickers, Evan J.**

Creation Date: 2024-01-23

Submission Date: 2024-01-23

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## Section 1: Request Details

### Description:

This request will expand and enhance the workplace readiness of all students enrolled at SUU to enter the workforce upon graduation. SUU's career services office will expand capacity and offer career preparation and professional development including a significant increase in internship and practicum opportunities. Students will gain the career readiness skills and practical workplace experiences in addition to completed degrees that employers are seeking. Recent graduates as well as students working their way through college will be better prepared for the workplace while setting them up to contribute to their local communities and the state economy as talented and prepared new professionals. This request will fund new staff lines, operating expenses which include career assessment and expansion of a Professional Internship Program, and space renovation which affords every willing SUU student: - Completes a career assessment with a career coach - Receives career preparation training through the Career Academy (professionalism, writing, salary negotiation, critical thinking, problem-solving, etc.) - Gains real-world experience through participation in an internship, practicum, or SUU's Professional Internship Program - Receives job search training (resume/cover letter writing, interview preparation, mock interviews, etc.) - Receives job search assistance - Benefits from career/life coaching for their first year on the job

### Legislative designee contact information:

- Name: John Fonseca
  - Organization: Southern Utah University
  - Position: Community & Government Relations Coordinator
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## Section 2: Funding Information

### How will the appropriation be used?

|                        | One-time                     | Ongoing        |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Personnel Services     | 2024: \$0.00<br>2025: \$0.00 | \$1,952,400.00 |
| In-State Travel        | 2024: \$0.00<br>2025: \$0.00 | \$0.00         |
| Out-of-state Travel    | 2024: \$0.00<br>2025: \$0.00 | \$0.00         |
| Supplies and Equipment | 2024: \$0.00<br>2025: \$0.00 | \$675,000.00   |
| Technology Purchases   | 2024: \$0.00<br>2025: \$0.00 | \$0.00         |

|                                    |                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Infrastructure/Capital Investments | 2024: \$0.00<br>2025: \$500,000.00 | \$0.00         |
| Other Charges/Pass Thru            | 2024: \$0.00<br>2025: \$0.00       | \$0.00         |
| <b>Expenditure Total</b>           |                                    |                |
| One-time 2024                      | One-time 2025                      | Ongoing 2025   |
| \$0.00                             | \$500,000.00                       | \$2,627,400.00 |

**Funding Sources:**

Income Tax Fund

- Amount Requested 2024 (One-time) \$0.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (One-time) \$500,000.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (Ongoing) \$2,627,400.00

Revenue Total

|               |               |                |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| One-time 2024 | One-time 2025 | Ongoing 2025   |
| \$0.00        | \$500,000.00  | \$2,627,400.00 |

**Should unused funding be returned to the state at the end of the fiscal year?**

No

**Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?**

Yes

**A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled**

Yes. We will implement and execute parts of the request up to any dollar amount received, using the following prioritization: 1. Career Advising (\$528,214 to include staff positions, career assessment expense, and operating expenses) 2. Employer Partnerships (\$923,614 to include staff positions, funding of Professional Internship Program, and operating expenses) 3. Marketing and Event Planning (\$75,269 to include staff position and operating expenses) 4. Career/Life Coaching (\$587,083 to include staff positions and operating expenses) 5. Career Academy (\$503,214 to include staff positions and operating expenses)

**Section 3: Agency Information**

**Subjects:**

Economy  
Education and Research

**Agency:**

518 / Southern Utah University

**Type of entity to receive pass-through funding**

- Government Not For Profit

**Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement**

**Who would benefit from this request (who is the target audience)?**

With the support of this legislative request, SUU could increase the capacity of the SUU Career Center by nearly 600% and be able to support every student. Students attending SUU represent all areas of the state, and particularly rural Utah. This program would increase career readiness and engage industry partner industries throughout the state, especially in rural Utah, enabling graduated students to return to rural areas to help support civic and economic growth.

**What is this project or program intended to accomplish?**

This request will help the institution achieve the following goals/objectives: 1. Completions (i.e. degrees and certificates) Goal: Provide employment support enabling students to earn and learn as they persist, thus increasing degree completion 2. Workforce (i.e. job placements, economic impact) Goal 1: Increase the number of professionally prepared students entering the workforce Goal 2: Decrease the number of students reporting underemployment Objective 1: Increase average student post-graduation starting salary

**How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?**

SUU will collect and report quantitative and qualitative data regarding: 1. Completions (i.e. degrees and certificates) Goal: Increase the number students persisting to degree completion Tracked via “Career Advising and Retention Rates” report from SUU Institutional Research and Assessment Office. 2. Workforce (i.e. job placements, economic impact) Goal 1: Increase the number of students entering the workforce Tracked via the Graduation Questionnaire Goal 2: Decrease the number of students reporting being underemployed Tracked via the Graduation Questionnaire Objective 1: Average student starting salary post-graduation will increase Tracked via Graduation Questionnaire

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**Section 5: Other Supporting Documents**

**Intent Language**

**Previous State Funding**