



Performance Note
HB0327S02 - School for Civics
and Economic Thought and
Leadership
Sponsor: Rep. Burton, Jefferson S.



Performance Note Report

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Agency: Utah Board of Higher Education

Funding For:

New Services or Benefit

Public Benefit:

Purpose: The aim of HB 327 is to raise civics literacy in the state by creating the UVUCTLI Civic Thought and Leadership Initiative (CTLI), a civics literacy program in Higher Education that will educate students on civics and the science of government in a three-fold manner: Civic Knowledge: Students will gain a basic understanding of governmental processes to include the design and purpose of the three branches of government, political ideologies, civic and constitutional rights, and the history and heritage of the republican form of Government. Civic Values: Students will gain an appreciation for civil discourse, free speech, respectful debate, and engagement with those who have different views and perspectives. Civic Behaviors: Students will develop sufficient civics literacy to confidently vote, volunteer and lead in their communities, and engage in public meetings and discussions within the democratic process.

Services: CTLI will provide educational opportunities related to the points expanded on in question 1 for K-12 and Higher Education. This bill will fund a myriad of services in the areas of education opportunities and resources, scholarly contributions, and civic engagement. These services are as follows: Classroom instruction this funding will enable UVU to build out a program of study including bachelors degrees, minors, certificates, and, perhaps in time, a graduate degree. Teacher development legislative funding will serve the states K-12 teachers by offering opportunities such as: Quarterly teacher training seminars and summer workshops hosted by UVU. Competitive scholarships for K-12 faculty for further educational pursuits (masters degrees, certificate programs, etc.). Curriculum development CTLI will provide a web-based suite of tools for teaching and engaging students in K-12, including enhanced curriculum for UVUs General Education concurrent enrollment courses.

Expected Outcome: A few examples of the issues faced in our state and nation are: Americans participation in civic life is essential to sustaining our democratic form of government (Brookings Institute). For the past several decades, there has been a significant decline in the level of civics engagement nationwide. Today, per Pew Research polling, 1 in 4 adults cannot correctly name the 3 branches of government. Just 19% of citizens 45 or younger can pass the U.S. citizenship test. According to a 2019 Pew Research poll, only 17% have trust in our government in Washington. While our focus on STEM has shown increases in science and math scores, we have seen corresponding decreases in civics literacy. Preparing our youth to compete and win in the 21st century requires a multi-disciplined approach that includes civics literacy. CTLI will directly address the issues

at the heart of these shortcomings and deficiencies: civics illiteracy and civic apathy. Thus, broadly speaking, the expected outcomes of this program are 1) increased understanding of the rights and duties of citizens and of the structures and functions of government; 2) increased awareness of civics issues in the state and nation; 3) increased engagement in civic affairs and the democratic process and a commitment to civility in that engagement. Additional key outcomes will be the measurement and analysis of these increases and the dissemination of the research generated by this new program. Ultimately this will position Utah as a national leader in civics education and citizen engagement.

Implementations and Resources: To create the robust, high impact civics literacy program needed to sustainably deliver the outcomes listed above, \$3 million in ongoing annual funding will be needed. These resources will fund program operations including faculty, leadership, support staff, university activities, K-12 programs, community engagement, and administrative expenses. As the appropriation has been reduced from \$3 million to \$1 million in HB 327 Substitute 3, UVU will need to scale the program and the outcomes initially. With the investment of appropriated funds, UVU would also seek private and institutional donors to enhance the program. Increased appropriations in future years will allow the realization of the above listed outcomes and the full impact of the CTLI.

How: We anticipate that CTLI will lead to the following effects:Increased civic awareness among university and K-12 students, K-12 educators, and interested members of the general public.Increased participation in government and civic life by the above-mentioned population segments.Greater awareness amongst students both in K-12 and higher education of the responsibility they have to good government and civil society. Development of future leaders and of civic leadership abilities among university and K-12 students.Enhanced K-12 civics education through teacher training and the creation, collation, and curation of K-12 civics curriculum.Increased knowledge of and appreciation for 1) the founding and history of the United States and its governing institutions; 2) the structures and functions of federal, state, and local government; and 3) the democratic process.Greater awareness of what careers in teaching and public service look like and the opportunities that exist.Generation of academic publications on civics and related subfields.Production of community-focused publications from CTLI faculty including web-based materials.Utah will have a central voice in civics education and disseminate our programs into the broader U.S. conversation around the issues supported by this legislation.

Performance Measures

Goal

Title: Goal Title

Description:

Collection Method:

	2021	2022	2023
Target	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baseline	0.00	0.00	0.00

By rule, performance notes are provided by the governmental entity that will supervise the new agency or administer the new program. Performance notes are not written by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.