



UTAH FOUNDATION

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Utah Foundation Identifies Tools for Board of Higher Ed to Improve College Education

The Board can make a difference through collaboration and balancing competing goals.

Virtual Media Roundtable at 8:30 am on April 10: [join here](#)

SALT LAKE CITY (April 9, 2025) – Education after high school is complex, expensive, important, and sometimes controversial. It also has numerous goals that are naturally in conflict. Four of the most important are completion, quality, affordability, and access. The Utah Board of Higher Education is tasked with addressing these goals with the help of various tools highlighted in this report. These include performance funding, program reviews, budget alignment, and student support services.

“Post high-school education is essential for Utah’s success,” said Shawn Teigen, President of the Utah Foundation. “The key to improving this is for the Board of Higher Education to collaborate with all stakeholders and advocate for all Utah’s college students.”

Media Roundtable:

- Presentation of the highlights of the report, *Elevating Post-Secondary Education: Governance Actions for Greater Access, Affordability, Quality, and Completion*, from **Shawn Teigen**.
- Comments from **Commissioner Geoffery Landward**.

Highlights of the Report:

- The Utah State Board of Education should determine whether performance funding can be adapted to encourage adherence to the state’s post-secondary goals.
- The Board should enforce its statute-defined mission and roles policy consistently, working to reduce competition and increase coordination among post-secondary institutions.
- The Board should maximize all post-secondary options by embracing the Utah Legislature’s commissioned report from the National Center for Higher Education Management System, which focuses on better utilization of Utah’s community colleges.
- The Board is restricted in directly affecting many policy levers, but it can advocate for policies – such as college advising, wraparound services, and broader educational alliances – among stakeholders and policymakers to benefit Utah’s post-secondary system and students.

The report, *Elevating Post-Secondary Education: Governance Actions for Greater Access, Affordability, Quality, and Completion*, is [available here](#) and will also be available on April 10th from the Utah Foundation's website.

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About the Utah Foundation:

Since 1945, leaders, legislators, and community members have relied upon the illuminating, independent, and nonpartisan public-policy research produced by the Utah Foundation to support informed decision-making on topics that matter most. As a 501(c)3 with broad community support and a 60-member board, the Utah Foundation exists to empower civic engagement as the foundation for enhancing Utahns' quality of life.

Known for its signature products, such as the Quality of Life Index, the Utah Priorities Project, and the Social Capital Index, the Utah Foundation has released more than 50 reports since 2020 on topics ranging from energy and education to taxation and transportation. Access all research, podcasts, videos, statistics, and more at utahfoundation.org.