



Office of

ENGAGEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

2017-2018 Annual Report



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Out of the Pipeline and on to the Pathway: The Office of Engagement's Person-Centered Approach to Accessing Higher Education

Success in college can never start too early. From preschool and kindergarten all the way through high school, there are things we can do today that will help prepare our young minds for higher education—no matter what stage they may be at now. The University of Utah's **Office of Engagement** connects community with the promises of higher education in important ways—through first helping young people IMAGINE and really believe they can go to college, then by mentoring and preparing them through the process, and finally by helping them DO—fostering real achievement through counseling, engagement, and the creation of a safe space to learn and discover.



Defining Your Path Field Trips

Hands-on immersive University experience for K-12 students



Education Pathways Uintah Basin

Encouraging, inspiring and supporting tribal youth in their path to higher education



Education Pathways Glendale

Individualized, holistic, educational pathway advising for students and families



Beacon Scholars

Students support each other in achieving academic success while staying connected throughout their educational careers.

Utah College Advising Corps

College Access Advising for 1st generation, low-income, and students of color

First Star Academy

Long-term program for foster youth in Utah that includes a multi-year residential component on the University campus



The Dream Center

Holistically supporting undocumented students and their families from college access to graduation



Defining Your Path (DYP)



Field trips to the University of Utah are valuable learning experiences that spark students' interest and help enlighten the path to college access. Visiting campus helps encourage young students to pursue higher education, while breaking down the intimidation and pressure that some students associate with college. Through a constructivist approach, students engage in hands-on learning activities, interact with college students and faculty, and set goals to obtain admission into higher education.

DEFINING YOUR PATH FACTS:

Since the creation of DYP in 2014, we have directed **177** campus field trips, serving **11,933** K-12 students and teachers.

50 field trips, serving over **4091** students in 17/18

2 AmeriCorps work studies and a cohort of **12** undergraduate scholars

35% of the schools served were Title 1 or "at risk" schools, as designated by the Utah State Board of Education

44 different departments, colleges, and programs engaged with DYP over the year

Education Pathways: *Uintah Basin*



The University of Utah and the Ute Indian Tribe value their long and meaningful relationship. The University is committed to encouraging, inspiring and supporting tribal youth to lead healthy lives and to pursue post-secondary education. Toward this end, the Office of Engagement works actively with the tribe to create productive “pathways” that connect the University to the Ute Indian Tribe.

Education Pathways: *Uintah Basin* FACTS:

Spearheaded an effort to have every senior in the Ute Tribe Tutor/Mentor Program complete a FAFSA and at least three college applications. In the last three months of 2018 the office of engagement staff executed **66** student meetings around this process

Led an interactive storytelling workshop for over **100** attendees at the annual Tri Ute Conference at Fort Lewis College

Supported the tribal efforts to improve student attendance by publicly recognizing nearly **300** students during the 2017-18 school year at Eagleview Elementary School that achieve 100% attendance.

Partnered with Youth Education to bring **22** students to campus to participate in a 4-day on-campus Ute Storytelling Camp

Collaborated with the Ute Tribe, the Youth Education at the “U” and the Marriott Library to create workshops around the question: “Who are you Connected to?”

Education Pathways: *Community Learning Center*



Education Pathways at the Glendale/Mtn. View Community Learning Center supports the ongoing growth and implementation of Community School philosophy. This work means that families, students, staff, community members, and a broader range of local people and resources are valued as part of the fabric that promotes opportunities for individual and communal growth, and that growth is directed by and with the community. At present, this support is represented by connecting both University students and Glendale Community members with various learning opportunities; providing educational planning and employment opportunities to school staff and community; and building the capacity of the school system to provide meaningful learning opportunities to youth and adult learners in the Glendale area.

Education Pathways: CLC FACTS:

Supported all Adult Education Pathways programs of the CLC including high school completion and English Language Learning (ESL) classes. This includes, facilitating/managing partnerships, meeting one-on-one with participating adult learners to identify career and educational goals and connect them to appropriate resources, and contributing to ongoing conversations for improving all Adult Education Pathways programs at the CLC. **30** adult learners are enrolled in ESL classes, **30** in high school completion and **12** have graduated high school

Supported **14** AmeriCorps members, **3** SLC school district Paraprofessionals and **1** University of Utah students

Managed internship opportunities for community members to coordinate *104Youth program*, working with **10+** Glendale Middle School students in college-readiness activities including: Participating students receive homework completion support and additional tutoring. They also participate college-readiness activities, STEM programming, and Healthy Relationship curriculum provided by Centro de La Familia de Utah

First Star Academy



The First Star Academy is a long-term program for foster youth in Utah that includes a multi-year residential component on the University of Utah campus. Housed and operated in the Office of Engagement at the University of Utah, the Academy is established as a partnership between the national non-profit First Star, the campus, and the Department of Child and Family Services. Eligible students were identified in the Spring of 2017, and were invited to apply for the program. A committee of University, community, and DCFS partners look for students with potential, interest, guardian support, and no violent criminal history. If chosen, youth remain in the program throughout their entire high school careers— regardless of changes in placements or their status as foster youth.

FIRST STAR ACADEMY FACTS:

Beginning in the Fall of 2017, **25** foster youth have attended the monthly Saturday Academies. These students, with room for 30 total, will attend the month long, residential Summer Academy beginning July 7, 2018.

The Academy will empower youth with the skills and information needed to advocate for themselves and others. We will prepare youth for higher education and adulthood through multi-faceted programming that focuses on three core components: (1) academics; (2) life skills; and (3) family and permanency supports.

Utah College Advising Corps



The Utah College Advising Corps is a University-based, college access initiative that seeks to help more Utah students from low-income, first-generation and underrepresented backgrounds attend college. Working alongside school staff, advisers assist students with navigating admissions applications, financial aid forms and scholarship applications, college entrance examination registration and preparation, and identifying first year programs at the institution they will attend.

UTAH COLLEGE ADVISING CORPS FACTS:

In **12** high schools across the state of Utah, **11** in the Salt Lake Valley and **1** in St. George

Met with **2622** students and had a total of **5845** meetings

Submitted over **4000** college applications

A study conducted in 2015 showed that **58.2%** of students that participate in the UCAC program enroll in post-secondary education, compared to the state average of 49% (Rodriguez, 2015)

A further study conducted in 2017 showed that for every meeting with a UCAC advisor students were **13%** more likely to actually enroll in college (Tao and Gunnerson, 2017)

Beacon Scholars



The Beacon Scholars program provides University of Utah students with a small community on campus. Through this community, students support each other in achieving academic success while staying connected throughout their educational careers. Students engage at the University and in their own communities, inspiring future generations to strive to achieve higher education. Students engage with their ideas, passions, and perseverance to make a difference. Students design and direct their own projects, building their leadership and programming skills with the freedom to dream big and "fail forward."

BEACON SCHOLARS FACTS:

In 2017-18, **96** students in **2** sections containing **4** cohorts each were enrolled

Served **366** unduplicated students over the past 6 years, retained **83.66%** of these students at the U (currently enrolled or have graduated)

1021 individual student advising interactions: 827 with active beacon students, 75 with former beacon students, 23 with Beacon alumni, and 96 with non-beacon students

The Dream Center



The Dream Center, established on January 3, 2017, works holistically with undocumented students and their families from college access to graduation. The Dream Center (1) engages in specialized college outreach and access strategies, (2) provides individualized mentoring and scholarship support for current and future University of Utah undocumented students, (3) promotes campus-wide advocacy and trainings for University of Utah students, faculty, staff and administration, and (4) increases community-wide awareness of policies affecting current and future University of Utah undocumented students.

THE DREAM CENTER FACTS:

Served **104** unduplicated K-20 and post-traditional students

Presented to **1051** K-20 students (K-20), parents and allies

Trained **210** faculty, staff and administrators at the University of Utah

Reached out to **650** community members in know your rights and information sessions

450 hours of individual advising with K-20 students