



Office of

ENGAGEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

2016-2017 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 a valuable learning experience that spark students' interests and provide them with a path to college access. Visits to campus expose and encourage students of all ages and demographics to pursue higher education. Students participate in engaged learning that enriches their knowledge of a subject, instills in them goals to work hard in high school, and allows them to meet and interact with college students.

DEFINING YOUR PATH FACTS:

8100 students since the program inception (fall of 2012)

53 field trips, serving over **4400** students in 16/17

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

61 different schools engaged, from **14** different districts, and **19** of these schools are Title 1

30 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:

35 community members, parents, students and staff participated in the series of workshops on college and financial aid applications

Initiated and conducted over **150** one-on-one interviews with native students at the three high schools in the Uintah Basin in order to capture information about their post-secondary school aspirations

96 students participated in storytelling workshops at Eagle View Elementary School and **300** students and faculty attended Storyfest

26 students participated in a 4-day on-campus Ute Storytelling Camp

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:*

Co-facilitated weekly critical and creative literacy programming (TruthCypher) for **30+** Middle school students

Engaged **17** HS Mestizo Arts & Activism students from pre-dominantly Westside schools through weekly culturally relevant curriculum, SEL\Youth Development activities, and Participatory Action Research methods

Managed internship opportunities for U of U students who worked with **10** middle school students

Supported **15** AmeriCorps members, **6** SLC school district Paraprofessionals and **3** University of Utah students

Created and managed internship opportunities for community members to coordinate *104Youth program*, working with **10+** Glendale Middle School students in college-readiness activities

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 youth will live within 40 miles of the University of Utah campus to assure ease of transportation to monthly Saturday Academies and the month-long Summer Academy.

FIRST STAR ACADEMY FACTS:

Beginning in the fall of **2017**, foster youth will begin attending the monthly Saturday Academies followed by the month-long Summer Academy in summer of 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.

An event held on April 29, 2017 was attended by **17** of foster youth, their caregivers, and families

22 applications for enrollment in First Star Academy have been received, with an additional **8** spots available for additional Foster Youth

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

Met with **2800+** students, with **2400+** identifying as first-generation, low-income, or underrepresented

Submitted **4900+** college applications

1530 FAFSA's submitted

901 students were awarded scholarships

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%

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:

Grown **123%** from last year, serving **96** students in **2** sections containing **4** cohorts each

Served **184** unduplicated students over the past 5 years

Retained **85.82%** (currently enrolled or have graduated)

Piloted Alumni program in partnership with Lifelong Learning, offering **4** classes

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 **50** unduplicated K-20 and post-traditional students

Presented to **674** K-20 students (K-20), parents and allies

Trained **94** faculty, staff and administrators at the University of Utah

Subscribed **241** K-20 students in undocumented student scholarship listserv and **226** K-20 staff and administrators in undocumented student resource listserv

Reached out to **500** community members in know your rights and information sessions