

# HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education, November 2011

## Higher ed officials ready for 2012 legislature

Preview meetings engage legislators in informative pre-session dialogue



For two weeks in November, Regents, institution presidents, trustee chairs and higher education officials held five legislative briefings throughout the state to discuss with legislators priorities for the upcoming 2012 session.

"For a number of years now, we have reached out to legislators with these briefing meetings as we head into each session," said Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs Dave Buhler. "Legislative support is important to the success of higher education, and we want to know what is on legislators' minds." These briefings were also opportunities for the Utah System of Higher Education to share with legislators the number of important system wide efforts taking place, while also listening to their ideas, concerns and feedback. Additionally, the eight institution presidents had the chance to give updates and answer questions.

This dialogue gave higher education officials a chance to share with legislators that even though budgets are tight again this year, quality and access for higher education are extremely important, and the hope that higher education remains a priority. Merit-based compensation for faculty and staff and mission based funding are among the list of priorities presented for the 2012 Utah Legislative Session.

## Technology-intensive concurrent enrollment

### Speeding completion one course at a time

In 2011, the Utah State Legislature appropriated \$2.46M to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for the purpose of creating six technology-intensive college courses designed for high school students through concurrent enrollment, each of which would satisfy a General Education requirement at colleges and universities throughout Utah. Each course is designed as a hybrid course having a blend of different learning activities that take place in class and online.

Each of these six courses are created by Utah high school and higher education faculty combined with project leaders from a number of USHE institutions. Additionally, the design teams will hold a series of professional development workshops for higher education faculty and public school teachers to familiarize them with the course design and demonstrate the use of suggested materials. The “hybrid” course format combines face-to-face learning in a classroom with online activities in either a computer lab or at home. Because of these focused efforts, seamless course articulation and transfer credit as well as assessment of student achievement in essential learning outcomes can be achieved in this concurrent enrollment setting.

Not only will these courses speed the time to completion by each meeting a general education requirement, but they will also reduce costs by using a single curriculum and open source materials. Due to popularity of concurrent enrollment among Utah high school students, the focused design of these courses will provide the highest quality of learning for those seeking a technology-intensive experience.

Three of the six core courses will be ready for preview by January 2012 and then will be readily available to all USHE institutions to offer to high schools statewide.

For more information on technology intensive concurrent enrollment, visit: [uen.org/concurrent](http://uen.org/concurrent)

These six courses coming soon to a high school near you...

#### Art 1010- Introduction to Visual Arts



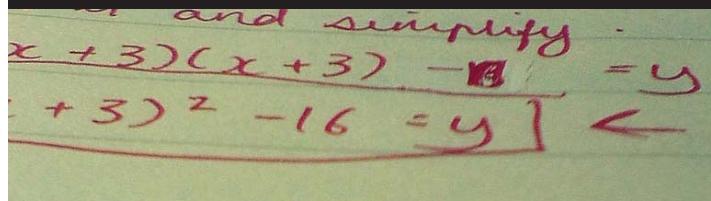
#### Chemistry 1110- Elementary Chemistry



#### English 1010- Introduction to Writing



#### Math 1010- Intermediate Algebra



#### Math 1030- Intro to Quantitative Reasoning



#### Psychology 1010- General Psychology

