

# HIGHER ED MATTERS

Utah System of Higher Education

September 2014

## Deneece Huftalin Named President of Salt Lake Community College



The Board of Regents has unanimously selected Dr. Deneece Huftalin as the eighth President of Salt Lake Community College. A 21-member Presidential Search Committee, chaired by Regent France Davis, narrowed the list down from an applicant pool of 55 to the three finalists announced last week after conducting an extensive nationwide search.

“With a large and diverse student population spread over multiple locations, the needs of this institution are complex and require a strong leader to be President,” said Dan Campbell, Chair of the Board of Regents. “I believe President Huftalin is that strong leader, and she will continue to positively shape SLCC, and the Salt Lake region as a result, for many years to come.”

**“I will do my best to ensure that SLCC remains an inclusive, student-centered institution where individuals from diverse backgrounds can receive a high-quality, affordable education.”**

**– President Huftalin**

Salt Lake Community College is one of eight institutions within the Utah System of Higher Education. SLCC is a student-focused, urban college that works to meet the diverse needs of the Salt Lake community. With a fall 2013 headcount of over 35,000 students, SLCC is Utah’s leading provider of workforce development programs and transfer students to Utah’s four-year institutions and a perennial Top 10 college nationally for total associate degrees awarded.

## Celebrating College Savings Month with \$8,000 in Scholarships

*Governor Declares September as College Savings Month*

The Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) and Zions First National Bank will award eight \$1,000 UESP college savings scholarship accounts to celebrate Governor Gary Herbert’s declaration designating September as College Savings Month in Utah. These scholarship accounts will be given to the winners of the Make Your Mark Bookmark Contest, open during September to Utah students in kindergarten through grade 12.



**Utah Educational Savings Plan®**

With students across the state returning to school this fall, it’s an ideal time for Utah families to think about the importance of saving for college, and to discuss their progress toward meeting their college savings goals. As Utah’s official 529 college savings plan, UESP can help families accomplish these goals. Plan simplicity, high-quality investment options, and low costs have helped UESP maintain its top-ranked status and consistent growth. UESP currently holds more than \$7.4 billion in assets under management in more than 259,000 accounts.

Celebrate College Savings Month with UESP by encouraging the students of your friends and family to participate in the Make Your Mark Bookmark Contest. Visit [uesp.org/bookmark](http://uesp.org/bookmark) for more information and to download the official entry form.



Published by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

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UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
*Building a Stronger State of Minds*

## Regents Prioritize STEM Building Proposals in Support of State's Economic Priorities

Utah's STEM industries are growing, and the most job growth since the Great Recession has occurred in these fields. And STEM jobs are high-quality: STEM workers earn higher wages than other degree holders and experience the least unemployment. This year, to meet the current and future demand for a STEM-skilled workforce in Utah, the Utah Board of Regents has adopted a specific strategy to support the need for more STEM graduates by placing an emphasis on the prioritization of state-of-the-art, high-tech and dynamic STEM higher education facilities at USHE institutions. The 2015 capital facilities priorities are as follows:

- 1 UNIVERSITY OF UTAH CROCKER SCIENCE CENTER\*
- 2 SNOW COLLEGE SCIENCE BUILDING REPLACEMENT\*
- 3 SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CTE LEARNING & RESOURCE CENTER \*
- 4 UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING \*
- 5 WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING REMODEL & EXPANSION
- 6 DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ STUDENT WELLNESS CENTER
- 7 UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY PERFORMING ARTS BUILDING I
- 8 UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING
- 9 SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY NEW BUSINESS BUILDING

\*STEM-focused projects

For more information, visit: [higheredutah.org/regents-prioritize-stem-building-proposals-in-support-of-states-economic-priorities/](http://higheredutah.org/regents-prioritize-stem-building-proposals-in-support-of-states-economic-priorities/)



## IS THE COST OF COLLEGE WORTH IT?

Much attention has been given recently to the total amount of student debt in America. And while the system isn't perfect and many issues remain to be worked out, the bottom line is **a college education is the best investment you can make for your future.**

The disparity in wages between college grads and those with only a high school diploma has never been greater. Students with a college degree earn on average \$20,050 more each year than high school graduates; that's an incredible 61 percent more annually. Over a lifetime, the worth of a college degree amounts to \$830,000 more earned than those with only a high school diploma.

It's not just wages that college grads have over those without a degree. Those with only a high school diploma are three times more likely to be unemployed and four times more likely to live in poverty.

For more information, such as student debt in Utah, tuition rates, and more, visit [higheredutah.org/is-the-cost-of-college-worth-it](http://higheredutah.org/is-the-cost-of-college-worth-it)

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ONLINE!**

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