Student Success Update
Board of Trustees Meeting
August 26, 2016

✓ **Restructuring of Public Safety/Risk Management/Emergency Preparedness Functions**
- Risk Manager/Title IX Coordinator Staci Taylor to become co-Emergency Manager with Derek Walk in Public Safety.
- Derek Walk to become Chief of Public Safety with Rick Rasmussen as Assistant Chief following retirement of Office Bob Wright
- Full time Risk Management/Title IX Assistant starting September 1st.

✓ **Other new hires in Student Success Division**
- Jason Springer, new Director of Student Success/Advisement Center, replacing Susan Larsen
- Zeb White, new Assistant Director of Student Life, replacing Shaun Kjar
- Sara Golding, new Student Support Services Academic Advisor/Instructor, replacing Cindy Averett
- Stacie Cragun Durrance, new Career Advisor, replacing Zeb White
- Heidi Stringham, Richfield Campus Relations Director, expanded from 10 to 12 month contract

✓ **Mental Health on Campus Initiative proposed by Utah Student Association**
- You Tube video clip at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OtclNrq7Uk
- Letter from USA summer meeting

Dear President Carlston of Snow College,

We, the Utah Student Association, write this letter to express our concern for the mental health of our fellow students. While improvements have been made, many of our students are untreated due to lacking resources. These issues affect the well-being, success, and retention of students across the state—directly impacting the state's ability to reach the goal of 66% by 2020.

As you may know, the following realities exist in Utah:
- Utah has one of the highest rates of depression and suicide in the nation. Those between the ages of 18-24 are the most affected age-group of this demographic (Utah Department of Health, 2015).
- Mental illness corresponds with higher dropout rates, lower GPA, and an increase in mortality rates (NAMI 2012).
- On average, a college student in Utah has to wait four to eight weeks to get an appointment at a counseling center. At some schools, the wait time is as long as 11 weeks (Utah Student Association, 2015).

Due to these realities, we encourage each USHE institution find creative solutions for our students that are both practical and long-lasting. We encourage each university to consider the following three-pronged approach to aid in addressing this growing problem:

1. *Increase access to therapists:* It is critical that we increase the number of therapists and resources for students in crisis on each of our campuses. Hiring additional therapists and using crises lines, text-support lines, phone applications like SafeUT, and ensuring that students are trained in Question, Persuade, Refer techniques is crucial in providing direct access to students in crisis (Buchanan, 2012; Gould et al., 2013; Tompkins & Witt, 2009).
2. *Create a support network:* Social support helps prevent mental health problems from worsening, and increases students' academic achievement (Whitlock et al., 2010). Drawing from the examples of other university successes like Michigan State's Wolverine Support Network and collaborating with community resources like Utah NAMI support groups, we can find ways to provide lasting social support for our students.
3. *Emphasize preventative care:* We must continue to decrease the stigma surrounding mental health issues through marketing campaigns. In addition, we need to continue to emphasize preventative care through access to mental health programs on campus.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this problem and for working with us to implement lasting change.

Sincerely,

Bailey Dalton, Snow College
Ashley Waddoups, Utah State University
Ty B. Aller, Utah State University
Avery Harding, Brigham Young University
Sarah Ramaker, Dixie State University

Arturo Salazar, Salt Lake Community College
Tyler Cornia, Southern Utah University
Jack Bender, University of Utah
Phill Raich, Utah State University Eastern
Birch Eve, Utah Valley University
Gregory Woodfield, Weber State University
Anand Benjamin Polk, Westminster College