

**MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

Thursday, November 15, 2012 – 8:00 a.m. – Room 445 Capitol Building

Members Present:

Sen. Stuart C. Reid, Senate Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Patrice Arent
Rep. Jim Bird
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Brad G. Last
Mr. Todd Bingham

Members Absent:

Rep. Brad R. Wilson, House Chair
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Mr. Scott Hirschi
Mr. J. Steven Price

Staff Present:

Mr. Rob Despain
Mr. Spencer Eccles
Mayor Tom Dolan
Mr. Wesley Smith
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Nathan W. Brady, Policy Analyst
Ms. Jennifer Christopherson, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Reid called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Arent moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2012, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Education's Role in Prosperity and Economic Development

Mr. Randy Shumway, Chief Executive Officer, Cicero Group, gave the presentation "Prosperity 2020" and said that the completion of a postsecondary certificate or degree can significantly impact income, employment, career satisfaction, confidence, personal happiness, satisfaction with life, and community engagement. He said that students are 50% more likely to pursue postsecondary education if a parent pursued postsecondary education and that they are twice as likely if a sibling has. Mr. Shumway explained that a person who did not pursue a postsecondary education is twice as likely to have utilized Medicaid, WIC, or CHIP, and three times as likely to have utilized food stamps. He stated that he personally recommends four things that are needed to reach the goal of Prosperity 202 that 66% of students obtain a postsecondary degree or certification:

1. Migrating in a direction toward stackable credentials in higher education.
2. Moving to a "pay for performance" model rather than the number of students.
3. Not dismissing general education but refining it.
4. Investing in high school counseling and technology.

Mr. David Buhler, Commissioner of Higher Education, gave the presentation "Utah System of Higher Education - Building a Stronger State of Minds" and said that Utah's system of higher education is a \$4.5 billion enterprise. He stated that, by 2018, 66% of jobs in Utah will require postsecondary education. Mr. Buhler explained that there is a strong correlation between less education and unemployment. He responded to questions from the task force members by saying that the American Council of Education has studies that show that the longer people wait after high school to enroll in higher education, the less likely they will enroll at all. He stated that parents should begin saving for their children's education from the day they are born and that we do not have enough of a go-to-college culture.

Mr. Robert O. Brems, President, Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT), distributed and discussed "Utah College of Applied Technology Annual Report - October 2012" and said that UCAT's completion rate is at 75%, which is 15% higher than the national average. He stated that everything that UCAT does is based on what the employers on their employer advisory committees indicate are needed and that stackable

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credentials are essential. He responded to questions from the task force members by saying that certificates need to increase significantly in the state and that it is often the boost a traditional degree needs to increase employment opportunities. He explained that a good strategy for students is to get a trade certificate that will help them land employment to help pay for further education.

3. Other Business / Adjourn

Chair Reid excused Rep. Wilson who was unable to attend the meeting and informed the Task Force that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2012. He brought the Task Force's attention to the Economic Development Task Force Interim Report, which was distributed to the Task Force, and announced that the task force may meet in January 2013 but will not meet again until after the General Session. Chair Reid encouraged task force members to be thinking about what issues they feel should be emphasized in the Economic Development Task Force meetings and to inform staff.

Sen. Jones requested to be excused from the December 6, 2012, meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Eccles moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Bird, Rep. Chavez-Houck, and Mr. Smith absent for the vote.

Chair Reid adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.