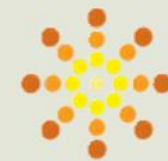


Utah's Unique Education Challenges & Opportunities



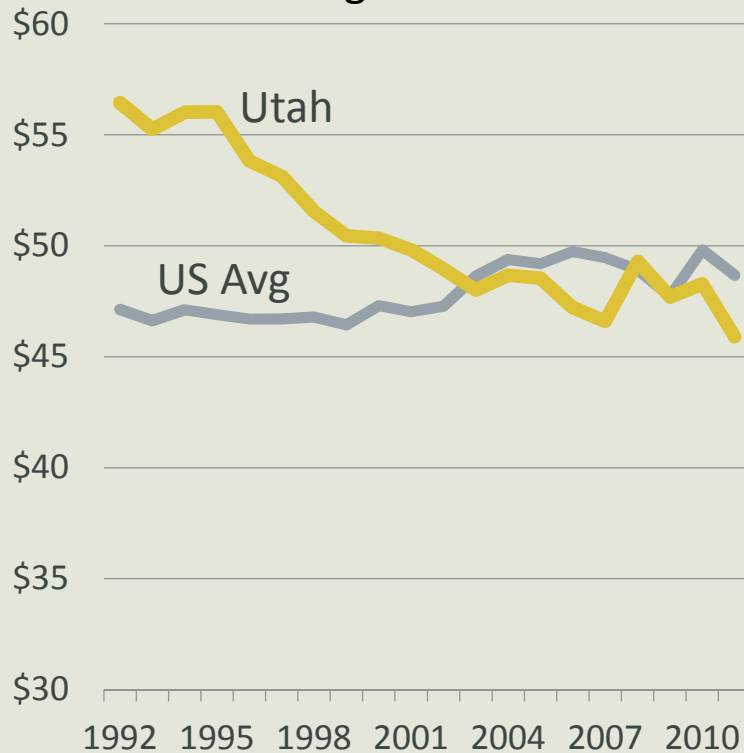
UTAH FOUNDATION
RESEARCH • ANALYZE • INFORM

Presented by Stephen J. Hershey Kroes, President, Utah Foundation
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Major Findings of Utah Foundation Research

K-12 Education

K-12 funding effort fell from far above average to below



- National test scores ranked in top 15 in 1990s but fell below the middle by 2007
- Utah's demographic and economic peer states consistently score higher
- Teacher attrition was a rising concern before the recession
- Our voter surveys consistently show K-12 education among the top three priorities
- Quality of Life Index shows K-12 as a problem needing attention

But There is Good News!

Reading Scores are Rising for 4th and 8th Grade

4th Grade Reading

	Utah Score	US Score	Utah Rank
2013	223	221	22
2011	220	220	30
2009	219	220	30
2007	221	220	28
2005	221	217	20
2003	219	216	25
2002	222	217	12
1998	215	215	23
1994	217	212	15
1992	220	215	15



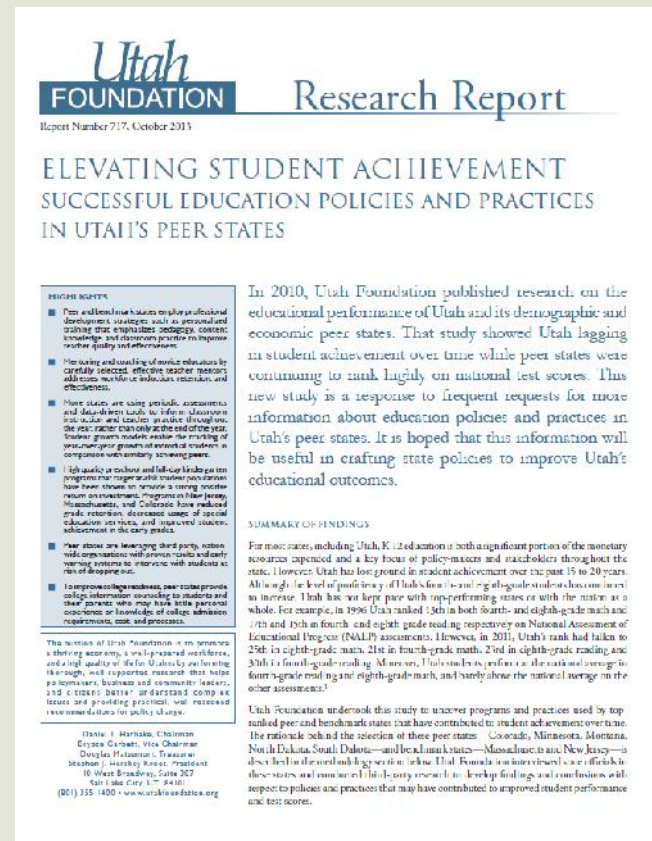
8th Grade Reading

	Utah Score	US Score	Utah Rank
2013	270	266	13
2011	267	264	20
2009	266	262	20
2007	262	261	29
2005	262	260	28
2003	264	261	25
2002	263	263	24
1998	265	261	11
1994	--	--	--
1992	--	--	--



Utah's Peer States Improving K-12 Results with Four Key Strategies

- High-quality, targeted, personalized teacher development
- Standards-based, data-driven, timely assessments integrated with student growth tracking
- High-quality preschool and full-day kindergarten
- High school interventions to reduce dropouts and promote higher education
- Colorado stands out as a remarkably successful peer state – can we learn more from them?



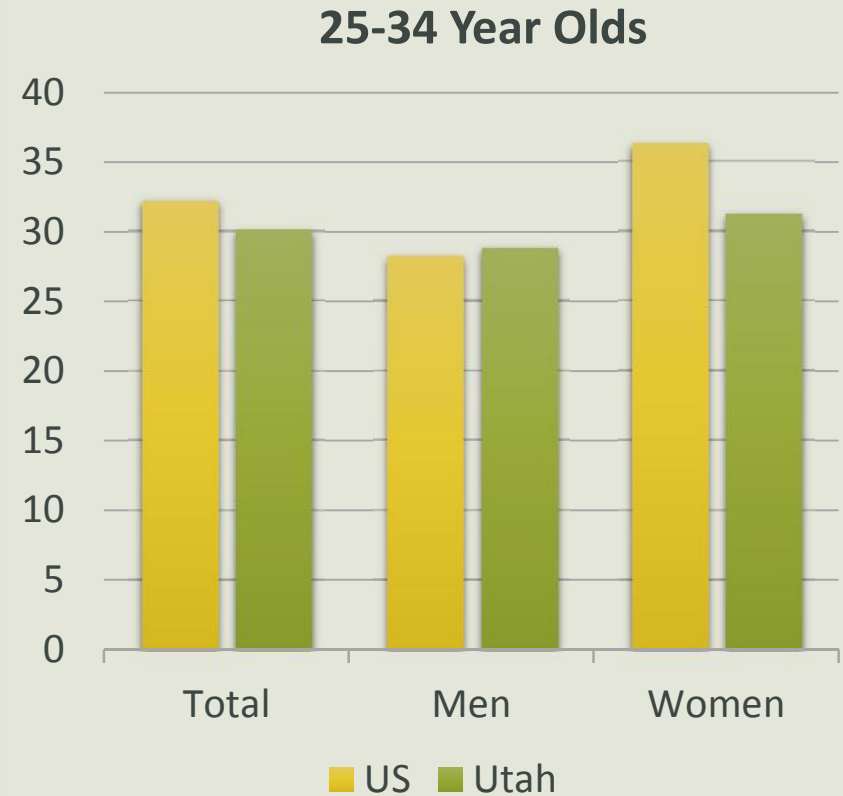
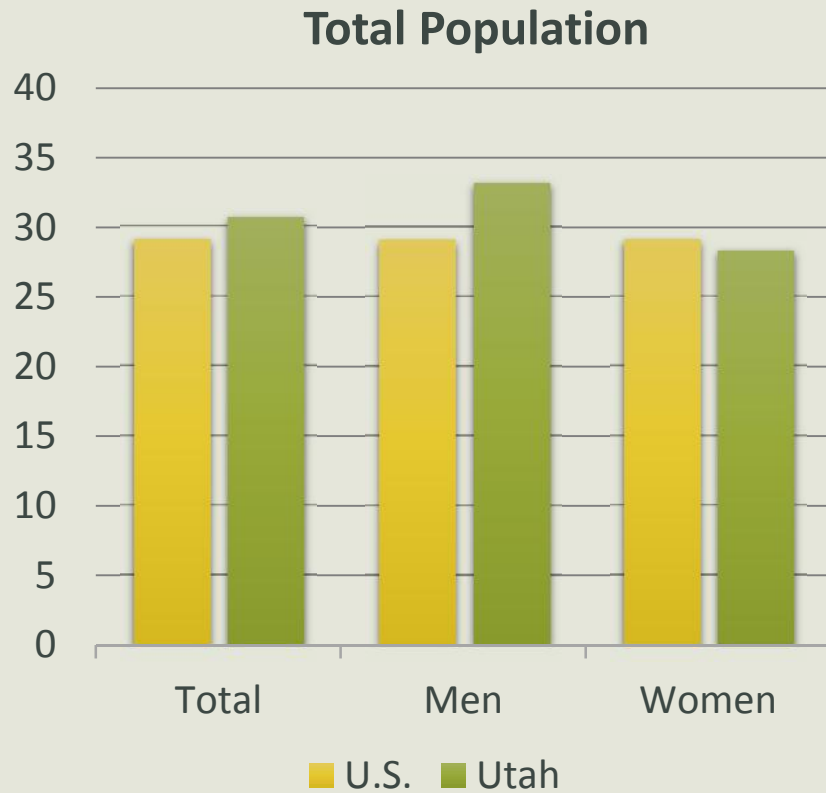
As K-12 Faced These Challenges, What Was Happening with Higher Education?

- State funding reduced during recessionary cutbacks not restored when economy picked up, leading to large tuition increases
- Even as degree attainment rose , other states rose faster, causing Utah's ranking to fall among younger adults
- Great Recession brought many jobless Utahns back to college, creating new strains
- Carnevale (Georgetown) study lays out the workforce challenge: 66% with degrees/certs by 2020
- Our polling shows higher ed also a high concern for voters and one of Utah's strengths in Quality of Life Index

Recent Good News

Utah's ranking in educational attainment is improving, largely through increases for women under 35

Percent of Population with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, 2012



Utah Foundation/SLCC Survey of High School Graduates, 2013

- 71% of last year's high school grads planned to attend college this year
- The price of college and availability of financial aid were very strong factors in their plans
- Considering various sources of encouragement for higher ed, parents were the most important, followed by teachers

Utah
FOUNDATION Research Report
Report Number 715, October 2013

INSPIRATIONS AND ASPIRATIONS
A SURVEY OF 2013 UTAH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

HIGHLIGHTS

- Of over 500 Utah high school graduates surveyed in 2012, more females (72%) and non-White (66%) respondents expressed that they would become an entrepreneur or business owner in the future, more than male (55%) and White (59%) graduates. The difference is driven by mission/faith/religious.
- Respondents indicated that more of their counselors (77%) and teachers (70%) believe that the respondents should go to college than do their mothers (65%) and fathers (64%).
- A majority of graduates believe they will earn a bachelor's degree (72%) and more indicated they will earn advanced degrees (38%). Approximately 64% of respondents indicated that most or all of their friends are planning to pursue college or obtain more education.
- Over 50% of respondents indicated that they are pursuing college or job training because they need it for their careers, to learn new skills that they need for their jobs, and to learn about subjects that are interesting and challenging.
- When they think about their future, 45% of graduates definitely know what kind of career or job they want, 45% more know.
- The survey results indicate that family income and race were related to the most significant reasons why graduates, mothers and fathers somewhat less so. Mothers' educational attainment was seen to have a greater effect on respondents' opinions than fathers' educational attainment.

The mission of Utah Foundation is to promote education, economic mobility, and a high quality of life for Utahns by performing thorough, well-supported research that helps policymakers, business and community leaders, and citizens better understand complex issues and provide practical, well-reasoned recommendations for public change.

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Educational attainment has been on the rise for more than 50 years. More people are graduating from high school and more people are getting college degrees. Utah has historically enjoyed a higher degree of educational attainment than the rest of the nation, but the U.S. is gaining ground. That said, the main purpose of this research report is not to compare Utah with the rest of the country. This report will primarily focus on what Utah must do to raise the number of post-secondary degrees or certificates among Utah's workforce to 66% by 2020. This was a goal set by the Utah Governor's Education Excellence Commission.¹ Based upon calculations by Utah's business-led Prosperity 2020, the state is currently at 43%, which shows that Utah has a long way to go.²

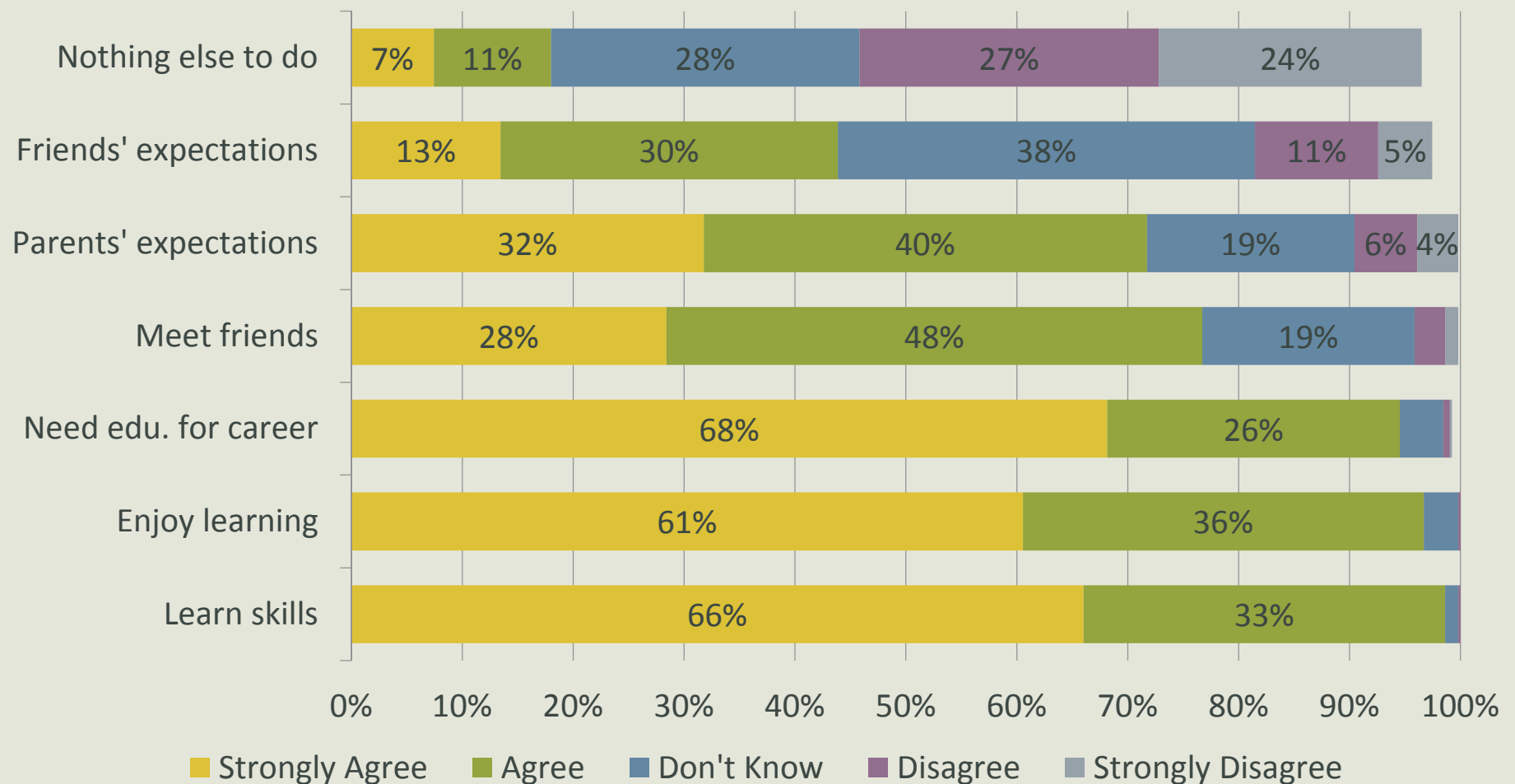
With the assistance of Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), Utah Foundation surveyed high school students graduating in 2013 to determine their post high school intentions. The survey was designed to query their attitudes, knowledge, and motivation about attending higher education, their influences towards pursuing higher education, and their understanding of financial feasibility.

A vast majority of respondents expect to obtain post-secondary degrees or trade certificates. More non-White graduates and female graduates indicated that they would be in college or job training within six months of completing high school than White graduates and male graduates; this is mainly due to the latter graduates performing church missions and service work. Respondents seem to believe that their own personal motivation is the most important factor in their post-secondary plans. However, there were numerous other important factors like financial aspects of higher education, religious, and parental encouragement. Interestingly, counselors and teachers seem to play a more important role in lower-income graduates' decisions as well as in the decisions of students whose parents have lower educational attainment.

Respondents strongly indicated that they were pursuing education to get a job later, learn new skills that they need for jobs, and learn about subjects that are interesting and challenging. A

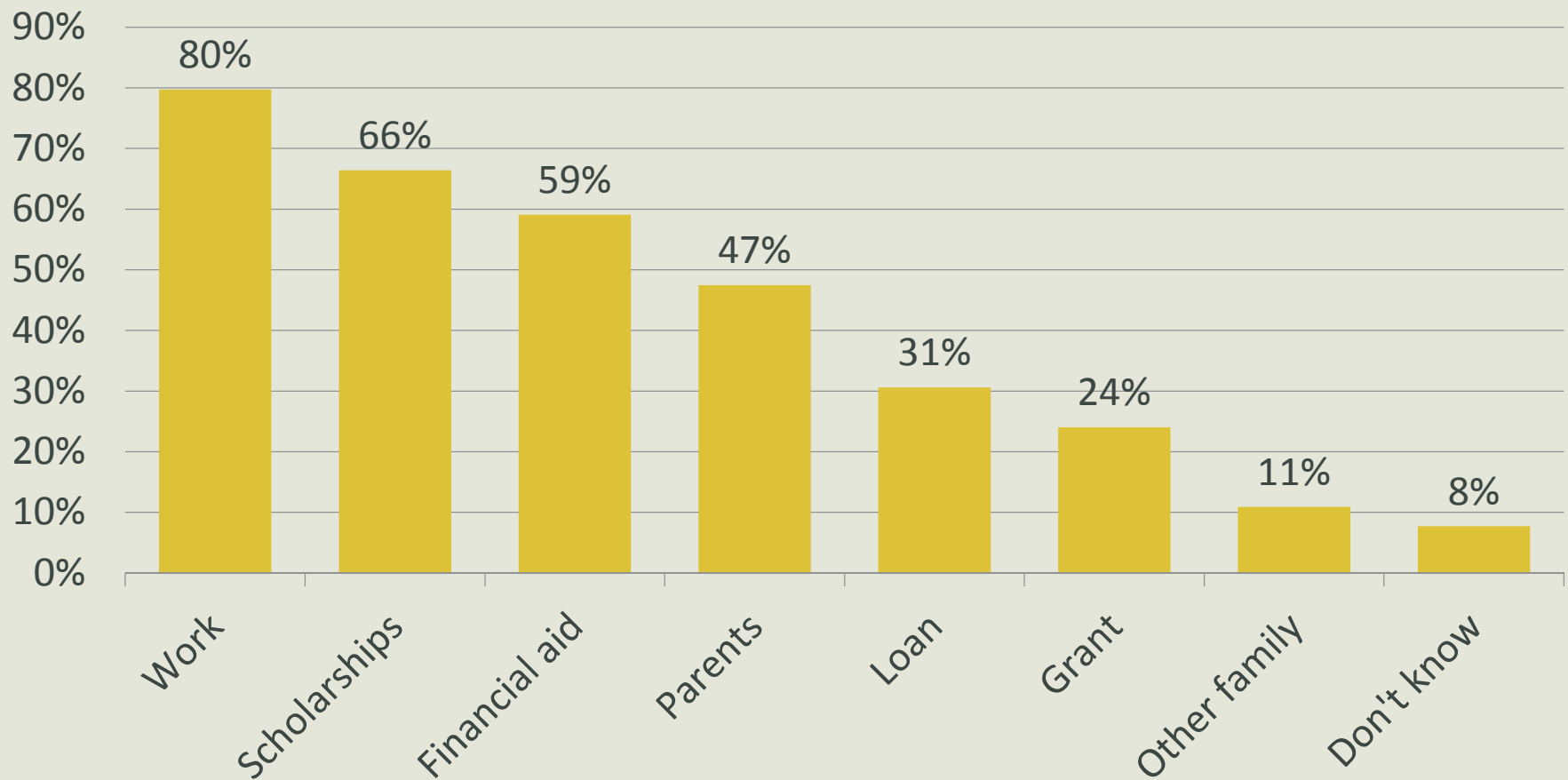
Utah Foundation/SLCC High School Grad Survey

Reasons for pursuing additional education



Utah Foundation/SLCC High School Grad Survey

How will you pay for your education?



Today's Agenda

- Two primary questions
 - How important is higher education in Utah's economic present and future?
 - How can we increase the number of Utahns entering and completing postsecondary education?
- Our goals
 - Informative discussion
 - Your questions answered
 - Meaningful audience feedback