

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Enrollment at Utah’s public colleges and universities up by over 4,000 for second year
in a row**

SALT LAKE CITY – Utah’s public colleges and universities are seeing another increase in student enrollment this fall semester.

The first “snapshot” of student enrollments for the 2016-17 school year (fall semester, third week) shows the number of students at the state’s public colleges and universities increased by 4,869 students, for a net increase of 2.78 percent over Fall 2016. This increase is on top of last year’s increase of 4,739 students.

The percent increase in full-time equivalent (FTE)* students was slightly larger, at 2.92 percent, which indicates more students are attending college full-time.

“It’s great to see so many students choosing to attend college, as it will make a significant difference in their future earnings, career opportunities, and quality of life. Our colleges and universities are working hard to ensure courses are available and student services are continued for all students,” said Dave Buhler, Utah Commissioner of Higher Education. [“As we anticipate adding over 60,000 students in the next decade](#), it will be increasingly important to continue to receive legislative funding to keep higher education accessible and affordable for all Utahns.”

Eight out of ten Utah high school graduates who enroll in college attend one of Utah’s public colleges and universities – the primary talent pipeline for Utah’s fast-growing workforce. With over 180,000 students, together the state institutions would rank as the state’s second largest city.

Differences in enrollment growth between USHE institutions reflect the distinct mission of each institution and how external factors, such as changes in the economy and changes in individual academic programs, impact each institution.

For more information, [see our enrollment dashboards](#).

TOTAL HEADCOUNT	2016	2017	CHANGE	CHANGE
University of Utah	32,061	32,800	739	2.30%

Utah State University	28,118	27,679	- 439	-1.56%
Weber State University	26,809	27,949	1,140	4.25%
Southern Utah University	8,955	9,468	513	5.73%
Snow College	5,350	5,563	213	3.98%
Dixie State University	8,993	9,673	680	7.56%
Utah Valley University	34,978	37,282	2,304	6.59%
Salt Lake Community College	29,901	29,620	- 281	-0.94%
USHE	175,165	180,034	4,869	2.78%

TOTAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)*	2016	2017	CHANGE	CHANGE
University of Utah	27,439	27,984	545	1.98%
Utah State University	21,974	22,024	49	0.22%
Weber State University	16,509	17,183	674	4.08%
Southern Utah University	7,186	7,542	357	4.96%
Snow College	4,034	4,085	52	1.28%
Dixie State University	6,852	7,382	530	7.74%
Utah Valley University	23,706	25,037	1,331	5.61%
Salt Lake Community College	15,624	15,693	69	0.44%
USHE	123,325	126,930	3,606	2.92%

**Total FTE approximates the number of students enrolled full-time each semester (15 semester hours for undergraduate students; 10 semester hours for graduate students).*

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THE UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION (USHE) is governed by the [Board of Regents](#) and is comprised of [Utah's eight public colleges and universities](#). The CEO of USHE is the [Commissioner of Higher Education](#). For more information, visit higheredutah.org.