



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

January 13, 2023

## Access for Whom: The Impact of Changing Demographics to Higher Education Access Gaps

Utah's changing demographics have been widely reported from the Deseret News to the Salt Lake Tribune<sup>1</sup>. Census data and research from the University of Utah's Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute drive changing demographic projections.

### What we know:

- Over the last decade, Utah has been one of the country's fastest-growing states, with slightly more than half — 52% of the growth attributed to racial and ethnic minorities<sup>2</sup>.
- Utah's multiracial (two or more races) resident population added the most residents and was the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group regardless of Hispanic or Latino origin between 2010 and 2020<sup>3</sup>.
- Between 2000 and 2019, the number of immigrants in Utah increased by 63.7 percent, and immigrants were responsible for 11.6 percent of the state's population growth during the same period<sup>4</sup>.

The Board will have a discussion led by Board Chair Lisa-Michelle Church in collaboration with the Director of Demographic Research and State Data Center Coordinator at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, Mallory Bateman, and Assistant Commissioner for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Laís Martinez, to discuss the impact of changing demographics and the urgency for targeted solutions to address gaps in access to higher education. Critical to this conversation are the ways in which underrepresented students and communities are engaged to inform, design, and coauthor strategies and solutions to close access gaps.

### Commissioner's Recommendation

Discussion item only.

### Attachments

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2021/10/13/bigger-older-richer-heres/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2021/8/15/22626627/utah-census-findings-results-population-minorities-driving-growth-more-than-white-people-salt-lake>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/C2020-Multiracial-Brief-Jul2022.pdf?x71849>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/new-americans-utah>