# MEMORANDUM

November 18, 2022

# Innovation Funds Grant Amendments

In the 2021 Special Session of the Utah Legislature, the state appropriated $8.2 million in funds to promote innovation in higher education delivery and student support systems. In December 2021, USHE created a State Higher Education Innovation Funds Advisory Committee and released a call for proposals to public higher education institutions.

The committee received 27 proposals from six degree-granting institutions. The proposals were scored using criteria outlined in USHE guidelines, which included consulting the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity and partners in education, business, and technology. Based on the scores and subsequent discussions of the committee members, 11 proposals were selected.

On May 20, 2022, the Utah Board of Higher Education approved the awarding of the proposals. A recent review of the grant process uncovered clerical errors in the memo to the Board and subsequent funding process. Utah State University's Stackable Credentials in Data Science project was previously funded in another grant program and was incorrectly added to the approval list, and Weber State University's STEM and Cybersecurity Pathway and Cyber Range Program should have been included in the initial approval process and wasn't. The following amendments are proposed to the board:

| Institution | Project Name | Amount Awarded |
|---|---|---|
| Utah Valley University | Excelerate UVU | $241,625 |
| Snow College | Competency-Based Education | $1,070,000 |
| Utah Tech University | UTECH Creative Studios | $363,171 |
| Southern Utah University | Virtual Reality Innovation | $950,000 |
| Weber State University | STEM and Cybersecurity Pathway and Cyber Range Program | $410,019 |
| Utah Valley University | Delphinium for Student Success | $382,510 |
| Weber State University | Computing Innovation Pathway | $478,680 |
| Weber State University | Embodied Mathematics | $199,490 |
| Utah Valley University | Excellence and Innovation Igniter Funds | $217,415 |
| ~~Utah State University~~ | ~~Stackable Credentials in Data Science~~ | ~~$70,337~~ |
| Southern Utah University | Eye Tracker Lab & Digital Branding Lab | $84,364 |
| Southern Utah University | Interprofessional Education Mobile Wellness Project | $399,927 |
| TOTAL | | $4,797,201 |

**Commissioner's Recommendation**

The Commissioner recommends that the amended eleven grant proposals selected by the State Higher Education Innovation Funds Advisory Committee be approved by the Board for funding.