



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

January 9, 2025

## Institutional Mission Updates

Southwest Technical College and Weber State University are each requesting that the Board approve updates to their institutional mission statements, and the Commissioner recommends that the Board grant both requests.

[Board Policy R312, Institutional Roles and Missions and Approval of Out-of-Role Instructional Programs](#), governs institutional mission updates. Under that policy, an institution seeking to update its mission must first consult with its Board of Trustees and then seek approval of the Board of Higher Education “to ensure alignment with the institution’s role(s) and the state’s goals and priorities for higher education.”

### Southwest Technical College

Current Mission:

Southwest Technical College provides education and job skill training through individualized competency-based programs in response to the needs of students, employers and the communities we serve.

Proposed Mission:

Empowering individuals through innovative, hands-on technical education to build careers and strengthen communities.

Southwest Technical College (Southwest Tech) recognizes that a mission statement must evolve to reflect the changing needs and expectations of students, employers, partners, and society while aligning with the institution’s current and future capabilities, opportunities, and challenges.

Regularly reviewing and updating its mission statement helps Southwest Tech:

- Stay focused on its core values and purpose,
- Adapt to both external and internal changes in the environment,
- Inspire and motivate its team and stakeholders,
- Clearly communicate its unique value proposition and differentiation, and

- Evaluate its performance and progress toward its goals.

The updated mission statement was designed to be clear, concise, and meaningful, ensuring it resonates with all stakeholders. The new language emphasizes empowerment, innovation, and community impact, reflecting Southwest Tech’s commitment to delivering transformative, hands-on technical education.

The proposed mission statement is clearly within Southwest Tech’s technical college role under Board Policy R312 and aligns with the Board of Higher Education’s strategic goals of access, completion, and financial value by reflecting Southwest Tech’s dedication to promoting student performance and outcomes through innovative approaches and effective strategies. Southwest Tech’s Board of Trustees voted in support of the updated mission on November 7, 2024.

### **Weber State University**

#### Current Mission:

Weber State University provides transformative educational experiences for students of all identities and backgrounds through meaningful personal connections with faculty and staff in and out of the classroom. The university promotes student achievement, equity and inclusion, and vibrant community relationships through multiple credentials and degree pathways, experiential learning, research, civic engagement, and stewardship.

#### Proposed Mission:

We transform lives and communities by educating students of all identities and backgrounds. We nurture student success through a supportive environment, individualized pathways, meaningful personal connections with faculty and staff, experiential learning and teaching, research, and civic engagement.

In July 2024, Weber State University (WSU) began a process to update the university’s mission statement and the 2021-2026 Weber State Amplified strategic plan to:

- Be in compliance with HB 261,
- Adjust metrics and desired outcome targets based on three years of experience, and
- Incorporate desired outcomes and goals to position the university better as it commences its next five-year planning cycle in 2025.

This effort was viewed as a tweak to the current plan and mission statement, thus resulting in the moniker of “Amplified 2.0.”

The revised mission statement aligns with WSU’s regional university and community college roles under Board Policy R312. The revised statement also removes references to equity and inclusion to comply with HB 261 and streamlines language. In addition, the revised mission statement and [Amplified Strategic Plan 2.0](#) support the Board of Higher Education’s goals of access, completion, financial value, and economic

development as outlined in the Board’s strategic plan. WSU’s Board of Trustees voted in support of the revised mission and strategic plan on November 5, 2024.

**Commissioner’s Recommendation**

The Commissioner recommends that the Board approve Southwest Tech’s and WSU’s revised mission statements.