



State Board of Regents
New Century Scholarship Program
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September 7, 2009

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Dear Valued Colleagues:

This summer the Utah State Board of Regents faced the possibility of scaled back New Century and Regents' Scholarships awards because the number of qualified scholars increased at the same time that state budget shortfalls resulted in budget cuts. We are pleased to report that both scholarships will be fully funded for Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 at 75% for the New Century Scholarship and the Regent's Exemplary Award. Qualified scholarship recipients have been informed about this restoration of funding over the past few weeks.

The New Century Scholarship encourages students to accelerate their education by earning an associate's degree in high school. Students must complete coursework with a 3.0 cumulative GPA and they are provided a scholarship for up to 75 percent of tuition at Utah public and non-profit colleges and universities. The scholarship can be used for up to two years of full-time enrollment or 60 credit hours. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade-point average and make reasonable progress toward the completion of a baccalaureate degree. The New Century Scholarship may be used at Utah public and nonprofit four-year colleges and universities.

The Regents' Scholarship encourages high school students to prepare for college by taking the Utah Scholars Core Course of Study. Students may qualify for:

- Base Award of \$1,000 (one time) (3.0 GPA, no individual core course grade lower than a "C".)
- Exemplary Award worth up to of 75% of tuition for two years (3.5 GPA, 26 ACT composite, no individual core course grade lower than a "B".) The Exemplary Academic Achievement Award is renewable for up to two years, 65 credits or completion of a bachelor's degree.
- Plus a savings match of up to \$400 (\$100 per year for four years prior to college) for saving with Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP).

The Regents' Scholarship may be used at Utah public and nonprofit colleges and universities.

For information regarding 2010 criteria and deadlines on both scholarships please visit the Utah System of Higher Education website: www.utahsbr.edu

Regarding scholarship availability and funding for the 2010-2011 academic year, we will have more information in mid April 2010, after state budgets are set by the Legislature. Currently, we estimate that at least \$3.5 million in additional funding will be necessary if the scholarships remain unchanged. Given the state's budget shortfalls, we are working with the Governor and the Legislature to evaluate options for the future sustainability of both scholarships.

We appreciate your work in helping students navigate their transition to postsecondary education. The students choosing to pursue these scholarships are making a commitment to prepare themselves academically. To ensure that they are also financially well prepared, please encourage students to understand and pursue all options appropriate to their individual circumstances.

Following are specific ways students and their families can prepare financially for college:

- Take full advantage of the Utah Educational Savings Plan, which provides tax benefits to families that save for college. UESP provides a one-time Supplemental Award of up to \$400 to Regent scholars. More information is available at www.UESP.org
- Apply for other grants and/or scholarships.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as early as possible. More information is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov Use student loans wisely after other financial options have been fully explored.
- Contact the financial aid office at the institution the student plans to attend to explore other financial resources.

Your mentoring of motivated students helps shape a great quality of life and economic prosperity for students, their families and our state. We look forward to our continuing collaboration.

Regards,

New Century and Regents' Scholarship Committees