

UTAH'S TECHNICAL COLLEGES FEATURED IN NATIONAL AREA TECHNICAL CENTER STUDY

SILVER SPRING, MD (FEBRUARY 3, 2021) -- Today, Advance CTE released *Building Better Futures for Learners: A 50-State Analysis of Area Technical Centers (ATCs)*, alongside five state profiles highlighting effective and high-impact models of ATCs. One of the state profiles features Utah's eight ATCs, known as technical colleges, which are administered by the Utah System of Higher Education. These centers received over \$104 million in state funding in FY21 and an additional \$720,089 performance-based funding support to serve over 36,000 secondary and postsecondary learning in FY2019.

"As we look ahead at the challenges and opportunities to achieving a sustainable and equitable economic recovery, it is vital that states fully leverage existing avenues for high quality, accessible education", said Kimberly Green, Executive Director for Advance CTE. "Our work shows that area technical centers are resilient and effective institutions for Career Technical Education, and giving these institutions a larger role in postsecondary degree and credential attainment is a win-win for everyone."

The state profile highlights the legislative evolution of Utah's technical college system over the last 50 years from vocational centers to its current role as postsecondary institutions under a united system that intentionally strives to elevate the role of technical colleges to improve learner access, program quality and state funding consistency.

"We know that postsecondary attainment opens the door to many opportunities that would not otherwise be available to individuals," said Dave R. Woolstenhulme, Commissioner of Higher Education, Utah System of Higher Education. "Technical colleges are critical to meeting state attainment goals, and more importantly, to strengthening state communities and the economy. It is our job as education leaders to increase the understanding of the education and career tracks available so that students start on the path that best works for them."

The full state profile and additional resources can be found at www.AreaTechnicalCenters.org.